Daily Report

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Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat Agrees To Drop Title of 'President'

NC0505210594 Paris AFP in English 2022 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Cairo, May 5 (AFP)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has agreed to drop the title "president of Palestine" when he enters the self-rule regions of Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

According to a letter annexed to the Cairo accord on the launch of self-rule signed Wednesday, he will use the title "Chairman (Ra'is in Arabic) of the Palestinian Authority" to run Gaza and Jericho.

The Palestinians have referred to 'Arafat as president of Palestine since a session of their parliament-in-exile in Algiers in 1988.

But the letter, a copy of which AFP received here on Thursday [5 May], allows the Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman to use the Arabic title "Ra'is" which also means president.

Also in the letter from Arafat addressed to Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, a co-signatory of the accord, the PLO agrees to inform the Israeli government of the names of the Palestinian Authority.

In Israel, the head of the government press office Uri Dromi on Thursday quoted Rabin as telling 'Arafat in Cairo to stop globe-trotting and "get prepared for serious things."

'Arafat on Entering Gaza-Jericho, Map Issue

NC0605071894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 May (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has affirmed that if it were not for President Mubarak's wisdom, endurance, and patience the agreement to implement the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles would not have been reached.

In an interview with AL-JUMHURIYAH published today, 'Arafat says that President Mubarak made phenomenal efforts to accomplish this and that he has always been the best support, authority, and honest adviser to the Palestinians.

'Arafat affirmed that the Palestinians are fully prepared to enter Gaza and Jericho, pointing out that he will enter Jericho in May to do his job as chairman of the Palestinian National Authority.

President Mubarak has been our refuge whenever we encountered obstacles. If it were not for his endurance, his good experience with the Israelis, and his firmness we would not have been able to restore the lands, 'Arafat said.

Asked why he refused to sign the maps at first, 'Arafat said that he trusted that the Palestinians would be bound by what they signed and that the same would apply to Israel. The text was inconsistent with the maps; they brought the blue file with the amended text and annexed to it the old maps with the Israeli viewpoint, he said. But after negotiations and with President Mubarak's mediation, I agreed to sign. But I noted in my handwriting that: "Jericho's borders and area and the Gaza coast are under consideration."

'Arafat said: I trust that President Mubarak will back our serious efforts to implement what we have achieved and to settle later on the problem of inconsistencies between the maps and the text.

Asked about the first decision he had made after signing the agreement, 'Arafat said: In my capacity as chairman of the Palestinian National Authority, I issued general instructions to all Palestinian self-government authorities and other organs to respect the rights of Palestinians wherever they might be and regardless of political orientation.

Commenting on reports that the Palestinians are not prepared to enter Gaza and Jericho in implementation of the agreement, the Palestinian president said: We are fully prepared. He affirmed that he will enter Jericho during May and that he will do his job as chairman of the Palestinian National Authority from his headquarters in Jericho.

'Arafat affirmed that every Palestinian citizen is entitled to enter Gaza and Jericho. We will prevent no one from entering and we will coordinate with the Israeli side in this connection, he said.

The Palestinian president revealed that a large number of Arab and foreign states, as well as the United Nations and all its affiliated organizations have made requests to establish accredited representation offices in Jericho. He added that the European Union, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Arab League have also requested permission to open representation offices. He welcomed all these organizations to Palestinian national soil.

Touching on international assistance to the National Authority, 'Arafat said that the World Bank has decided to grant the Palestinians $2.2 billions to assist them in development efforts and in arranging their household from within.

On the area of Jericho, 'Arafat said: We have reached a compromise solution on the area of Jericho. As for the Gaza coast, it will all be under the Palestinian National Authority. We agreed to give the Israeli side an opportunity to exploit some 7 kilometers for oil-related and other services. The Palestinian navy will begin operating along the coast, where we will have two ports along Gaza's Mediterranean coastal stretch.

Asked about the absence of any reference to a Palestinian state in the agreement, and about the absence of any such reference in Israeli officials' statements, 'Arafat said: In spite of this, there will be Palestinian autonomy on our

national soil. No people in history who obtained the right to rule themselves did not eventually establish a state.

'Arafat Receives Congratulations Call From Clinton

LD0505175994 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, yesterday received a telephone call from U.S. President Bill Clinton, who conveyed to him his own congratulations and the congratulations of the U.S. Administration and people on the signing of the peace agreement.

President Clinton expressed the need for a swift implementation of the agreement, reiterating U.S. desire and readiness to help the Palestinian authority with all means to allow it to realize all its tasks.

Brother Abu-'Ammar thanked President Clinton and asked him to exert all his efforts to help in the implementation of the agreement and to facilitate the difficult tasks facing the Palestinian authority.

The brother leader added: The Palestinian people believe they have a friend in the White House.

Kozyrev Conveys Congratulations to 'Arafat

LD0505202394 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] President Yasir 'Arafat yesterday received Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who conveyed to him the congratulations of the Russian president, government, and people on the signing of the peace agreement.

Mr. Kozyrev stressed the Russian Federation's support for the efforts of re-building the political, economic, and administrative infrastructure of the Palestinian National Authority.

President Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] asked Kozyrev to convey his thanks to President Boris Yeltsin for the efforts he has been making toward the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority.

'Arafat Leaves Cairo for Jordan

NC0505133994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 May (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo for Jordan this afternoon after attending the signing of the agreement on the implementation of Palestinian self-rule in Cairo yesterday.

He was seen off at the airport by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif.

Mahmud 'Abbas Leaves for Tunisia

NC0505141494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 May (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, and his accompanying delegation left Cairo for Tunisia this afternoon after attending the signing of the Palestinian self-rule agreement yesterday.

Sha'th on Withdrawal, Police Force, Funds

NC0505180594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 May (MENA)—In a statement here today, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, stressed the importance of implementing the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho on time and as stipulated in the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

Commenting on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remark yesterday that 'Arafat has asked for a period of four weeks until the withdrawal and the deployment of the Palestinian police force take place, Sha'th said that President 'Arafat asked Rabin for the withdrawal to first be effected on time in accordance with the Gaza-Jericho agreement and according to the designated timetable to avoid any gap in time between the Israeli withdrawal and the entry of the Palestinian police force.

In his statement, Dr. Sha'th said that the period requested by 'Arafat is the same period specified in the Gaza-Jericho agreement. He said there are rumors that the withdrawal might be implemented within a day or two from the signing of the agreement. But 'Arafat asked that the withdrawal be effected according to the specified timetable so that they would be no time gap between the withdrawal and the entry of the Palestinian police force.

Dr. Sha'th's remarks were made during a news conference held by representatives of countries giving donations to the Palestinian police force following their meeting in Cairo today.

To a question about the funds to be given to the Palestinian police force in the self-rule regions by the donor countries, the Palestinian president's adviser said these funds will come from the European countries through a coordination institution. All these funds will be deposited in a private account in support of the Palestinian police, Dr. Sha'th added. He affirmed that there will be no custodianship on such funds.

Continuing, Dr. Sha'th noted that the PLO will be in complete control of these funds, adding that the PLO undertook to present clear accounts to the donor countries through an international institution in Cairo which will audit the accounts according to the international regulations.

Dr. Sha'th said that Saudi Arabia has indeed declared that it will pay US$20 million through the United

Nations Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA] for economic development projects in Gaza and Jericho. Saudi aircraft will transport the Palestinian police force from six Arab countries to Gaza and Jericho, he added.

Dr. Sha'th said that the PLO will submit a list to Israeli Prime Minister Rabin containing the names of officials who will be in charge of various administrations in Gaza and Jericho in accordance with the agreement, which also notes that the names should be submitted a week after the signing of the agreement yesterday.

Dr. Sha'th pointed out that there are 6,000 Palestinian employees currently working in the civil administration [al-idarah al-madaniyah] in the Gaza Strip and these will become part of the self-administration [idarat al-hukm al-dhati]. Therefore, the self-administration will not start from a vacuum.

The Palestinian president's adviser said that negotiations will be held in Cairo within a week over certain points which were not resolved during the 'Arafat-Rabin meeting. He said that a round of negotiations will also be held for the election of the Palestinian National Authority.

As regards the negotiations over the transition period, Dr. Sha'th said these are slated to be held in Washington. However, he said that if the Arab-Israeli bilateral talks are not resumed in Washington soon, then the negotiations for the transition period will be held in Cairo.

Dr. Sha'th noted that the first Egyptian-Palestinian-Jordanian-Israeli meeting will be held within a month to discuss the return of refugees to Gaza and Jericho according to the agreement.

Terry Larsen, Norwegian deputy foreign minister and chairman of the donor countries coordination committee, said that the United States, Japan, and the EU have donated $20 million to cover the expenses of the Palestinian police for six months and that Saudi Arabia has promised to provide the Palestinian police with electronic equipment worth $1 million.

He said that a number of Palestinian detainees will be freed from Israeli prisons today and more will be released next week.

Larsen said at the start of the conference that today's meeting discussed what has been achieved and the outcome of the tours made by delegations from the committee member countries to a number of donor countries last month. He added that a large number of countries have decided to extend financial support to the Palestinian police to help it carry out its duties.

Edmond Hal, U.S. charge d'affaires in Cairo and his country's representative on the committee, said that the United States believes that the Palestinian police force will be an element of support in the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. He called on all the donor countries to honor their pledges so that the Palestinian police can preform their duties.

The Russian Federation representative said that the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreements is the important thing now so that it will have a practical and positive effect on the entire peace process. He added that one of the coordination committee's objectives is to help the Palestinian police perform their duties and control the situation in Gaza and Jericho, stressing that his country is ready to help these forces.

On his part, Egypt's representative, Ambassador Husayn Darar, said that Egypt helped prepare the Palestinian police while participating in the negotiations process so that these forces would be ready to enter the self-rule area. He expressed pleasure at hosting the committee's work in Cairo, stressing that Egypt provided all the facilities for ensuring the success of its work.

It is recalled that Norway, the United States and Russia—the co-sponsors of the peace conference—and Egypt chair the committee coordinating international aid to the Palestinian police. The committee also includes Japan, the EU countries, and a number of financial insitutions.

Palestinians Expect Difficulties in Implementation

NC0505121494 Paris AFP in English 1016 GMT 5 May 94

[Report by Barry Parker]

[Text] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza Strip, 5 May (AFP)—Palestinian officials admitted Thursday [5 May] they were having "difficulties" launching self-rule, but fended off Israelis accusations off being ill-prepared.

PLO spokesman Sufyan Abu-Zayda told AFP there were "technical" problems, a day after the signing of an agreement to launch autonomy in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

"We are not a government, we are an organization with our forces spread around the world," he told AFP.

"We have to expect that there will be difficulties, serious difficulties because this conflict has been going on for so many years," said PLO official Rashid Abu-Shibak, founder of the armed group the Black Panthers.

West Bank military administration spokeswoman Colonel Elise Shazar said the occupiers were "ready to transfer power at any time.

"But we are waiting for the Palestinians to knock on the door and present the list of names of the future heads for various sectors," she said.

"Since the Palestinians have asked for a delay to get organized, the administration is waiting and continues, while waiting, to be responsible for everything as usual."

The military administration would operate until the withdrawal was completed.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has already turned on the PLO for its apparent lack of readiness in a devastating outburst.

"They're not ready to take things over," he said Wednesday after PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat at first refused to initial part of the autonomy deal, causing chaos at the lavish ceremony.

'Arafat finally appended his reservations to the size of the Jericho enclave.

"We could finish our withdrawal in 10 days, the problem is that Yasir 'Arafat has asked for four weeks," Rabin revealed.

Palestinian negotiators were "more concerned about symbolic issues than purely practical problems".

Rabin urged the PLO to focus on the "economic woes" of Gaza. With more than half the working population unemployed and with little prospect of finding a job in the near future, the size of the task cannot be underestimated.

The PLO, whose offices have just one telephone line working in Gaza City, had announced that 1,000 policemen would enter Gaza on Thursday.

But the arrival has now been put back to an imprecise "middle of next week".

From Cairo, PLO security chief Jibril Rajub told Israel radio: "There are logistical problems in the deployment of the Palestinian police. It will begin in a few days and will no doubt extend over a few weeks."

"We have to coordinate our efforts with Israel and a liaison committee will try to harmonize the deployment and the transfer of responsibilities."

The liaison committee met on the strip on Thursday with the aim of agreeing a timetable for the security transfer.

Israel has set a "representation" at the Erez crossing point into the strip to assist the new authorities and later to act as a contact point, for example if a Palestinian wants hospital treatment in Tel Aviv.

PLO spokesman Abu-Zayda tried to explain the slow pace.

"We don't want the police to come before everything is ready for their deployment. We don't want to put them in camps like jails," he said.

"We need a week to prepare things, to find places for them to live. The agreement gives us three weeks."

However, divisions among the Palestinian ranks cannot have helped.

No Palestinian figure from the territories attended the Cairo ceremony.

Neither West Bank Fatah chief Faysal al-Husayni, nor ex-PLO spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi, nor ex-head of the delegation to bilateral negotiations Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi.

"After a 27-year pregnancy, we have given birth to a premature son, in weak health and who may not survive," said al-Husayni.

Such prognostics were not heard publicly on the Gaza Strip among those charged with running autonomy.

"We are ready to set up the authority in 24 hours," claimed Abu-Shibak, who returned to Gaza in early April after escaping abroad to avoid arrest in 1990.

No one mentioned whether 'Arafat was using time as a weapon to try to gain more concessions from Israel over the size of Jericho and the release of prisoners, hundreds more of whom were expected to be freed Thursday after an initial 250 following the signing.

Hasan Abu-Libdah, deputy director of the PLO-appointed Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Construction, described the problems as "Palestinian insufficiency".

"We are not ready to receive authority," he said, pointing out that under occupation Palestinians had never had to take decisions.

"Environment questions, for example, are totally new to us," said Abu-Libdah who is also in charge of 36 technical committees the Palestinians set up after the Madrid conference launched the peace process in October 1991.

"What we need is to Palestinize the programmes in every sphere. It's not a matter of being a week late, it might take three or six months before we are really ready," he said

Palestinian sources added: "They are only ready in the field of health.

"It's the only field we have experience in and have a full programme ready.

"As for the rest, education, tourism or whatever nothing else is completed.

"For direct taxation nothing has been done. We need three months' work with the Israelis on tax matters.

"Autonomy grants authority to the Palestinians for indirect tax, social welfare, education, health and tourism."

Palestinian Police Entrance Process Described

TA0505191994

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 5 May carries a 5-minute video report by military affairs correspondent Roni Daniyel which recounts that "the entrance of the Palestinian policemen to Gaza and Jericho will be delayed and will be carried out in stages." The report states that "the weapons of the Palestinian policemen will arrive in

Egyptian Rafah in approximately three days. Later, after proper coordination with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the policemen will enter Rafah and assume immediate responsibility over the area. The entrance of the Palestinian policemen to the other parts of the Strip has been delayed to a later date." The report notes that these details were concluded in a working meeting today between heads of the Israel-Palestinian liaison committee.

Daniyel explains that the first meeting of this committee was held at an IDF base near the Erez checkpoint today. He adds: "The initial stage of the Palestinian force's entrance started today in the shape of a familiarization tour of the five police installations in the Gaza Strip." Daniyel points out that the Palestinians "did not assume any responsibilities today, rather only reviewed the situation." Describing "the agreed-upon withdrawal method," Daniyel notes: "Unarmed Palestinian forces will enter the area while the IDF withdraws. Only then will the armed Palestinian policemen arrive with their vehicles and assume responsibility. The phased withdrawal from Rafah will start next Wednesday [11 May]."

Daniyel points out that the Palestinians will be the ones who decide how the withdrawal process proceeds, "on the basis of their ability to assume responsibility." "They will announce next week what size they can control. As things look now, they will start with the Rafah area." "The IDF is ready to evacuate all the areas over which the Palestinians will be ready to assume control." Daniyel stresses that both sides are striving to prevent a situation of a vacuum on the ground, "in which incidents can occur which both sides are not interested in." "For this reason the two sides are coordinating an overlapping process, wherein the Palestinians enter the area unarmed, study the area, and take over only after they are able to assume responsibility and rule. The IDF will evacuate the area immediately after it receives the appropriate order."

The report goes on to quote correspondent Yoram Binur, who says that "in Jericho too it is not known exactly when the Palestinian policemen will arrive. It is assessed they will cross the bridges from Jordan in the middle of next week. Meanwhile a preliminary Palestinian police team is in Jericho, coordinating the process with the IDF."

Police Liaison Teams Discuss Transfer of Authority

TA0505172394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 5 May 94

[Excerpt] In Gaza, talks have been continuing between the Israelis and the Palestinians on the transfer of authority and facilities. In the Strip, as this was happening, was reporter Alan Ben-'Ami, who is on the line. What is the situation as of this moment, just over one day after the accord was signed?

[Ben-'Ami] You could say that today, for the first time, some real concrete steps towards having the Palestinians take control on the ground in the Gaza Strip and have the Israelis pull out, concrete steps began today. Basically, there was a meeting with the Palestinian police liaison team—some senior Palestinian officers headed by General Ghazi Jabali and Major Ziyad 'Arif. They have been meeting with the top rank of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in Gaza and the Civil Administration people, like Brigadier General Yomtov Sami', the former commander of the Gaza Strip, who is now in charge of liaison between Israel and the Palestinians from the Israeli side; and Brig. Gen. Doron Almog, the current commander of the Gaza Strip.

They have had more than five hours of discussions. After that, the Palestinian liaison team of about 17 men split up, going off to look at police stations and various security facilities throughout the Gaza Strip, either with Israeli policemen or with IDF officers. [passage omitted]

Cairo, Refugee Talks To Resume; Opposition Reacts

TA0605064994 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 6 May 94

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal—live]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem sources have said that negotiations with the PLO on the completion of the Gaza and Jericho agreement will resume only after the PLO enters the self-government areas. Foreign Ministry sources believe that the negotiations will resume in Cairo, and will be held on the level they were held so far—delegations under Major General Amnon Shahaq and Dr. Nabil Sha'th.

Speaking in Cairo, Sha'th announced that negotiations on the return of tens of thousands of misplaced Palestinians from 1967 will begin next month. Jerusalem confirmed that the negotiations will be held according to the Oslo agreement in a four-way committee of representatives from Israel, the PLO, Egypt, and Jordan. According to Sha'th, Jordan has agreed to participate in the talks at the beginning of next month.

Foreign Ministry sources said that they do not know that a date has been set for the convention of the committee, but they said that Israel has agreed in principle that the committee convene in some two months. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 6 May adds: "Tzomet Chairman Refa'el Eytan says that there never were 200,000 Palestinian refugees of the Six-Days War. There were only several dozen thousands [as heard], mostly from three villages from the Latrun region." Eytan further says that "the public is being misled, and that through these refugees, the government wants to grant the Palestinians the right of return it had canceled in the past.

["The Likud says that the government no longer serves Jewish and Zionists interests, as seen in its readiness to implement the Palestinian right of return. The Likud spokesman has said that returning hundreds of thousands

of Palestinian refugees into the boundaries of Eretz Yisra'el will result in a demographic disaster for Israel."]

Refugees Talks To Start Next Month

TA0505143594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] The talks regarding the return of the Arabs who became refugees in 1967 will start in approximately one month. The number of these refugees is estimated by Israel to be about 200,000. The talks will be held in the framework of the joint Israel-Palestinian-Egypt-Jordan committee, as stipulated by the Declaration of Principles.

The talks regarding the clauses which were not finalized before the signing of the agreement with the PLO will resume in Cairo within one week. The negotiations regarding Palestinian early empowerment will also start within one week.

Israeli Official: Arms Control Talks 'Successful'

TA0505162294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] The document of principles of the multilateral arms control committee will be discussed in a working meeting of the committee members in a special session in Vienna. This has been decided at the conclusion of this round of talks, held in Qatar. Qol Yisra'el correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that another working team of the multilateral committee will convene in France in the near future to discuss other issues which have not been finalized.

David 'Ivri, director general of the Defense Ministry, described the Qatar meeting as successful. He noted that among other things, it was decided to hold a naval search and rescue maneuver. David 'Ivri noted that the Saudis and several other parties tried to delay the rate of progress, because they believe the talks are proceeding too fast.

AFP Reports Problems at Talks

NC0605070094 Paris AFP in English 0331 GMT 6 May 94

[by Taieb Mahjoub]

[Text] Doha, 6 May (AFP)—Middle East disarmament talks ended in deadlock here Thursday [5 May] with Arab and Israeli delegates unable to agree on a statement of principles on arms control, conference sources said.

The delegates agreed to re-submit a draft statement of principles to their respective governments before returning to more talks, the date and venue of which have still to be fixed, according US representative Robert Einhorn.

The draft plan comprises both military and political chapters, the latter rejected by Saudi Arabia.

"We categorically reject the political section of the project, which is aimed at normalizing relations between Arab states and Israel," Prince Turki bin-Muhammad al-Sa'ud, head of the Saudi delegation, told AFP.

"Most Arab participants also rejected this part of the text," Prince Turki said.

David Irvi, leader of the Israeli negotiating team, stressed his government's commitment to the entire plan, including the political chapter.

"The political section (of the accord) is necessary because it offers a working framework for future meetings," he argued.

The draft statement drawn up at a meeting in Cairo in January proposed a number of confidence-bulding measures and the creation of a zone where weapons of mass destruction would be banned.

Prince Turki said the statement should cover "only military questions, including the elimination of weapons of mass destruction."

Ivri said he did not understand Saudi Arabia's objections. The kingdom had rejected a US proposal to hold another meeting in June in Vienna, judging that date too close, he added.

Qatari Foreign Minister Hamad Bin-Jabbir Al Thani sounded an optimistic note. "We hope to achieve better results in the future, making progress in line with the continuation in the peace process in the Middle East," he said.

The delegates approved in principle the creation of a crisis prevention centre in Qatar, as well as a telecommunications centre and a databank.

Switzerland and Finland offered to welcome delegates from the region for visits to arms control sites and military training in the two countries.

Israel also offered a similar visit to one of its military sites, but the suggestion was turned down by Saudi Arabia.

"We will not take part in any activities in Israel and we will not host any of the multilateral negotiations," declared Prince Turki.

The meeting here—marking the first time Israeli officials had travelled to Qatar—was part of a multilateral negotiating process on Middle Eastern regional issues that parallels bilateral Arab-Israeli talks on purely political disputes.

The talks were launched an international Middle East peace conference arranged in Madrid in October 1991 by the United States and the former Soviet Union.

Other multinational committees are focusing on economic issues, water sharing, the environment and refugees.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Delegation Mission to Yemen Postponed

NC0505142394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 May (MENA)—The scheduled Arab League mission to Yemen to try to end the political crisis and prevent a destructive civil war has been postponed.

A responsible source at the Arab League said that Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid asked Major General Sa'id Bayraqdar, assistant secretary general for military affairs, and Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Sakit, the Arab League's expert on Arab affairs, to travel to Yemen today. But the delegation could not leave Cairo International Airport after officials said that the plane to Sanaa would not depart today following the closure of Sanaa Airport because of the deteriorating security situation.

League Chief Calls For End to Fighting in Yemen

NC0605053794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1942 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 May (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has issued an urgent appeal to the brothers in Yemen, calling on them to refrain from fighting, exercise self-restraint, and close their ranks. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid warned the Yemenis that partition and civil war would only bring ruin and hardship.

The secretary general said that Arab countries and the league's General Secretariat are following the escalation of the situation in Yemen with concern and that they hope to see it end soon.

Yesterday Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid telephoned President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and offered to send a high-level delegation to Yemen to help contain the crisis. However, the delegation could not travel to Yemen because of the shelling of Sanaa Airport.

Today Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid received a telephone call from Yemeni Prime Minister Dr. Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas. The secretary general urged al-'Attas to seek an end to the fighting to preserve the safety, security, and stability of brotherly Yemen.

League Receives Gulf States' Memoranda on Weapons

94P50134A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 May 94 p 6

[Text] Cairo—The Arab League has received official memoranda from the six member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council related to their view of the way to deal with the subject of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East region. AL-HAYAH has been informed about the Saudi, Qatari, and Omani memoranda.

The Saudi memorandum emphasized the [necessity of] subjecting the Israeli nuclear facilities to international inspection, while Qatar demanded a "quantitative and qualitative equality in the military capabilities of the region's states," and the Omani memorandum called for eliminating weapons of mass destruction within a framework of achieving peace. It also proposed confidence-building measures and decreased military spending. The Saudi memorandum included the following:

1. The Kingdom supports making the Middle East region free of weapons of mass destruction.

2. It is important and necessary for Israel to join the nuclear weapons proliferation ban agreement, for it to subject all of its nuclear facilities to international inspection, and for the intensification of efforts and prompting by the international community to induce Israel to join the agreement.

3. Signing of a chemical weapons ban agreement is not incompatible with efforts to induce Israel to sign the nuclear weapons proliferation ban. In fact, it is in the interest of such an effort.

4. It is important to bring up in the multilateral talks the subject of Israel's signing of the nuclear weapons proliferation ban and to make the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, within the context of the arms limitation committee.

Three points were brought up in the memorandum submitted by Qatar, which hosted the arms limitation committee:

1. It is necessary that arms limitation arrangements mirror the determination of the states concerned with living in peace, in the light of the new circumstances and relationships prevailing in the Middle East in order to achieve stability and security, while taking into consideration the difficulty of achieving any substantial decrease in armaments levels in the region in the absence of peace and stability.

2. The degree of progress in the bilateral negotiations between Israel and the Arab sides must influence the degree of progress in the field of arms limitation. The achievement of progress in the field of arms limitation and security arrangements may have a positive effect on the bilateral negotiations as well, and the achievement of peace is the only guarantee of security for all the parties.

3. Basic considerations and principles that should be the basis for the arms limitation regime are:

A. It is necessary to provide a quantitative and qualitative equality in the military capabilities of the region's states, because the current inequality cannot continue.

B. It is necessary to achieve security through discussion and political arrangements, and eliminating policies of military superiority.

C. These principles should be applied to all the states of the area without exception or preference in an equal, balanced form at similar levels, applied according to a single measurement.

D. It is necessary to continue the dialogue about arms limitation questions by gradual stages leading to putting in place a mechanism and regional measures for arms limitation.

[Qatar] proposed realizing the nature of the problems and determining them according priorities, agreeing on confidence building measures before the sides announce their intention to take steps in fields which are agreed must have priority. It is necessary that all the concerned sides in the region agree to be bound legally by contractual obligations before joining into the nuclear weapons proliferation ban agreement, and that they concur in the application of international means of verifying their adherance to the agreement.

The Omani memorandum included seven points:

1. Dealing with the problem of weapons of mass destruction in the region. They should be eliminated within the context of achieving peace, and the area is still in a situation of doubt and distrust over the renunciation of its destructive weapons stores. The tremendous assets that are being spent on these weapons should be used in development programs.

2. The dialogue about armaments should continue in gradual stages, each of which leads to the next, with a time schedule or program to achieve effective steps toward peace which is parallel to steps toward eliminating these armaments.

3. The memorandum refers to the Sultanate's signing of a chemical weapons ban and requests that all the countries of the region sign it.

4. It is up to Israel and the Arabs to announce their intention to eliminate destructive weapons stores and to accept international inspection of the manufacture and development of these arms at the appropriate time.

5. Conventional weapons in the region should be drawn down, with a view to the long-range national security of each side in the area. The goal is to increase this security so that no side achieves a greater security, military, or strategic advantage at the expense of another.

6. The Sultanate of Oman believes that the principal threat comes from unlimited proliferation of these weapons, and that it is up to every country in the world to work toward a world free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, safeguarding world peace and security.

7. It is necessary to take measures to build confidence, and the Sultanate proposes:

A. Issuing a statement about the danger of not controlling the arms race.

B. It is necessary to limit expenses in defense-related fields.
C. It is necessary to prevent the accumulation of weapons of mass destruction.
D. Settlement of disputes by peaceful means.
E. Nonaggression and nonintervention in internal affairs.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Secretary General Welcomes PLO-Israeli Accord

LD0505012694 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2130 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] Secretary General Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid expressed his deep satisfaction and welcoming of the signing in Cairo of the agreement between the PLO and Israel on the implementation of the agreement on transitional self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

In a statement today, he said that this agreement was an important turning point in the history of the Palestinian people and a decisive step in the course of its just struggle, during which immense sacrifices were made toward the achievement of its legitimate rights including the right to return, the right to self determination, and the setting up of its independent Palestinian state on its national territory with Jerusalem as its capital.

The secretary general welcomed the courageous and wise steps taken by the PLO under the leadership of His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat in defense of the proud Palestinian people's rights and interests during this stage of hard talks.

Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid stressed the Muslim nation's fundamental and constant support of the Palestinian people in its fight to regain its basic national rights.

He called on the international community to provide all forms of support to the Palestinian people during this historic period of constructing and developing its vital utilities and infrastructure and its national social and economic institutions as the fundamental pillars for its national authority on its land, thus bolstering security and stability in the region.

The ICO secretary general praised the efforts made by all parties to the peace process that contributed toward achieving this agreement, particularly the efforts made by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in this regard as well as the peace process cosponsors, the United States and Russia. He called on them to continue their efforts in order to achieve tangible progress on all other Syrian, Jordanian, and Lebanese peace tracks in a way that will guarantee a full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the establishment of a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East on the basis of international legitimacy.

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Husayni: Agreement To Bring Change, Still of Concern

LD0505111794 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0830 GMT 5 May 94

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and West Bank have responded cautiously to the signing of the agreement on Palestinian self rule. [passage omitted]. Faysal al-Husayni, the senior Palestinian leader in the West Bank and Yasir 'Arafat's lieutenant there, said Jericho and other issues such as Jewish settlements would create problems for the agreement. He told Middle East correspondent Tony Hill that the signing of the agreement in Cairo would now bring changes, but it was still of concern to many Palestinians.

[Begin recording] [Al-Husayni] Fortunately there will be a change, but we are worried because we know that there are some articles in this agreement which can create a real tendency to (?so complicate it) and the Israelis are insisting that to keep some articles there which we know very well that it will be obstacle for any solution in the future.

[Hill] You said the day before that you believe Mr 'Arafat should not sign this agreement under these present circumstances. Should he have signed it in Cairo?

[Al-Husayni] I don't know what he writes on the map before he signed it but he put a long statement which means that he was signing on it under very bad circumstances that he found himself forced to write something before signing on it.

[Hill] Isn't this a matter of public confidence in this agreement and won't that problem in Cairo over the signing only undermine that public confidence in this agreement?

[Al-Husayni] A lot of problems will created, a lot of price will be paid until the Israelis will convince that what they are asking us now is unpractical and unrational [as heard].

[Hill] So you believe this agreement as it stands now may not succeed?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that this agreement as it is now and if the Israelis will try to implement it literally, it will cost a lot of us a high price, but in the end the Israelis will discover that this is not the way.

[Hill] What can Yasir 'Arafat and Palestinian leaders like you do then to make sure this agreement does succeed as it is signed?

[Al-Husayni] First I was hoping that it will not be signed today [4 May] before making these changes. As far as it was signed today, so we will do everything to improve it in the right way, and to show the Israelis from the beginning where is the points which is not right points to be there and to convince them to take it out [as heard].

[Hill] There has only been a very quiet response from Palestinians in the occupied territories. Do you now feel an urgency to try to get some real changes quickly on the ground to improve confidence?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, the only thing that can bring back this confidence is the implementations on the ground and that's what we are insisting on now. [end recording]

Al-Husayni Put in Charge of 'Jerusalem Portfolio'

TA0505172894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] In Jerusalem, Palestinian leader Faysal al-Husayni says he has been appointed to take charge of the Jerusalem portfolio on behalf of the PLO.

He said he did not take part in yesterday's signing ceremony for two reasons. He had hoped the accord would be more positive, and he was busy at work.

Security Forces Ordered To Prepare for Deployment

NC0505164294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 May (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has issued an order for the Palestinian national police and security forces to prepare to move immediately to take up their positions in Gaza and Jericho.

This was stated to MENA by Zuhdi al-Qidrah, acting Palestinian ambassador in Cairo and Fatah's representative. He said that 'Arafat issued this order following the signing of the agreement on the implementation of Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho in Cairo yesterday.

Police Chief: Palestinian Forces 'Not Factional'

PM0405093094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Apr 94 p2

[Unattributed report: "Palestinian Chief of Security and Police Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Our Forces Will Enter Gaza and Jericho Not Later Than 20 May"]

[Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Palestinian chief of security and police has confirmed that the Palestinian police forces will enter the Gaza Strip and Jericho by 20 May at the latest. He said that the entry will be completed within two weeks after the signing of the final agreement on the implementation of autonomy.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Major General Mudar Yusuf (Abu-Yusuf) revealed that the forces will be transported to al-'Arish airport in Sinai by military transport planes.

He denied recent rumors that Israel will hand over to the PLO five important police posts in the occupied Gaza Strip next Tuesday.

Maj. Gen. Yusuf said: "These reports are unfounded." He added that in the first stage, the Palestinian police will enter Gaza and Jericho at the same time but the main effort will be concentrated on Gaza, which is densely populated, to provide security and stability there. He stressed that preparations have been made in all areas where Palestinian police and security forces are present and that they are awaiting orders to move.

Abu-Yusuf said that, in the first phase, some 6,000 policemen will arrive in Gaza-Jericho, 4,500 of them going to Gaza and 1,500 going to Jericho, and these forces will enter as units in their present formations. Some of these formations may later be changed depending on circumstances on the ground and need. He added that the PLO recently received special military uniforms for the Palestinian police from Norway, and the first consignment of U.S. aid, consisting of police vehicles, has already arrived.

In reply to a question about the structure of the police forces and whether they mainly consist of Fatah elements, Maj. Gen. Yusuf emphasized that the forces which will be responsible for security and stability in the Gaza Strip and Jericho "are not factional forces. They are national forces belonging to all the Palestinian people." He confirmed that "the Palestine Liberation Army [PLA], which includes elements from all the factions as well as elements not affiliated with any factions, has now become a security and police force."

Maj. Gen. Yusuf revealed that "a large number [of people] from the factions opposed to the Oslo agreement have sent us applications to join these forces." He added that in the coming phase, the Palestinian police forces will not operate on a factional basis but on the basis of the Palestinian authority which will consist of various sectors of the Palestinian people regardless of their political affiliations.

Maj. Gen. Yusuf ruled out the possibility of any major problems when the Palestinian police forces arrive. He also ruled out the possibility of friction between them and Hamas "because the brothers in Hamas have repeatedly stated their opposition to Palestinian infighting, and we will make every effort to promote understanding and agreement with them."

Maj. Gen. Yusuf urged all sectors and factions of the Palestinian people "to extend a helping hand to the Palestinian police and security forces for the sake of building our future authority, easing our people's suffering, and providing security and stability for them."

On the spread of arms possession in the city of Gaza and whether that will be a security problem for the Palestinian police forces, he said: "Arms do not scare us."

PLO Official on West Bank Reaction To Signing

NC0605083194 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 6 May 94

[Telephone interview with Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks and professor at Bi'r Zayt University, in Jerusalem, by Fayiz al-Miliji in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Miliji] Good morning Mr. Ghassan al-Khatib. We welcome you to our talk show.

[Al-Khatib] Good morning and thank you.

[Al-Miliji] To start with, could you fill us in on the reactions to the signing of the agreement on starting to implement autonomy in Gaza and Jericho?

[Al-Khatib] The reaction is the opposite of what was expected. The Palestinian people in the occupied territories received the signing of this agreement and the celebrations that went with it lukewarmly and cautiously, quite opposite to their reception of the Oslo agreement and the celebrations following its signing in Washington. The reason is that the repeated Israeli stalling in implementing the agreements has created indifference among the Palestinian people. Because of the Israeli stalling the Palestinians have lost faith that such agreements will actually be implemented. The Palestinian man in the street is saying that he will believe these things only after they are implemented, because he has seen many things signed and heard about many agreements. None of these ever changed the course of his practical life. Therefore, the reaction to, or judgement of this agreement by the Palestinians here has been put on hold until after the Palestinian people see the actual implementation or effects of this agreement on their lives. Then, the whole situation will be different.

[Al-Miliji] The agreement that was signed the day before yesterday still has some pending matters that have not been agreed upon. Do you think the Palestinian people are worried about these points?

[Al-Khatib] Frankly speaking, the Palestinian people are worried about a lot of things. First, they are worried because there are some matters that have been put off. Our people have gone through some difficult times and were promised certain changes that never happened.

[Al-Miliji] Although you have always shown concern for the Palestinian people, do you not see any reasons for optimism now, especially since the Palestinian and Israeli sides have adopted the slogan "Let there be peace"?

[Al-Khatib] Yes. There are certain things that should make the Palestinians optimistic. But this optimism is hedged with caution and apprehension. For example, the possibility of allowing the Palestinian leadership, police, and the army—that is the Palestinian Liberation Army—to enter the Gaza Strip and Jericho are great sources of hope and optimism for the Palestinian masses. In addition, the possibility of releasing or the majority of the Palestinian detainees, if not all of them, is also a source of hope and optimism for the Palestinian people. However, so far the Palestinian people have not seen any practical

results despite the large number of agreements and hopes, so they have mixed feelings of optimism, expectation, and anticipation to see what the practical changes will be. After that, the government can be established.

[Al-Miliji] Mr. Ghassan al-Khatib, today is the third day since the agreement was signed. In other words, the it has not been very long. Now, everyone is waiting for the Israeli forces to withdraw from Gaza and Jericho and the Palestinian police to enter. Does this not provide grounds for optimism rather than concern and tension?

[Al-Khatib] Yes, but you have to remember that there have been agreements in the past and Israel stalled on implementing them. It also stalled on the negotiations over implementation. It created obstacles everywhere, thus hindering the practical implementation of these agreements. Various dates were agreed upon that were not respected by Israel, who always claimed that deadlines were not sacred. Thus, our people are afraid to be overly optimistic in order to avoid disappointment like after the Madrid conference and the signing of the Oslo agreement, etc. However, there is anticipation and hope. After the Palestinian leadership and police enter the territory, after some changes start taking place, and as soon as the Israeli withdrawal starts, I expect the mood of the Palestinian people to shift.

[Al-Miliji] Mr. al-Khatib, have the Israeli forces started withdrawing from Gaza and Jericho?

[Al-Khatib] The Israeli forces have vacated a few locations in Gaza City, or the Gaza Strip. This has left a positive impression with the Palestinian people. The people understand clearly that things take time and that complications may crop up. Therefore, they are waiting to see how the agreement will be implemented. They will take their stands based to that.

[Al-Miliji] In your capacity as a leading figure of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, could you tell us when the Palestinian police will enter?

[Al-Khatib] A group of 17 high-ranking Palestinian officers have already entered the Gaza Strip at Rafah crossing. They have begun a series of meetings with ranking Israeli army and police officers to put the final touches on the process of handing over the buildings and security responsibilities to the Palestinian police. After these meetings, this group will submit recommendations on the necessary time period for handing over responsibilities. Based on their recommendations, the date for the Palestinian police's entry will be set.

[Al-Miliji] Our last question is: How are the Palestinian people preparing themselves to receive Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat when he enters the occupied territories for the first time since Palestinian autonomy began?

[Al-Khatib] Actually, President 'Arafat is greatly respected and supported in the occupied territories. I notice that the Palestinian people are anxiously awaiting the return of the Palestinian leadership headed by brother Yasir 'Arafat, especially since the Palestinian people are expecting his return to spread a sense of security and stability after the difficult conditions we have gone through. Of course, when brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] returns he will be accompanied by a large number of Palestinian people, be they leaders or otherwise, who are living abroad. The people here are awaiting this very anxiously.

Therefore, I believe that the return of the Palestinian leadership will soon have a positive effect on the mood of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

[Al-Miliji] At the end of this dialogue, we thank our guest Mr. Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks and professor at Bi'r Zayt University, who spoke to us from Jerusalem. Thank you Mr. Ghassan.

[Al-Khatib] Thank you.

Former Delegation Head Comments on Cairo Agreement

TA0505150894 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 5 May 94 p 2

[By Muhammad Abu-Khudayr]

[Excerpts] Jerusalem—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, former head of the Palestinian delegation, has said that the Cairo agreement does not call for optimism because what Israel is doing and implementing on the ground contradicts the concept of peace.

'Abd-al-Shafi asked: Does 'Arafat's hesitation in signing the maps prove that there is a contradiction between what is written and what is drawn?

'Abd-al-Shafi added that the agreement places many obstacles to reaching a just peace and gives Israel more reasons to cling to its inflexible stance and its claim that it has a right to the occupied territories. He noted that Israel has expressed its positions by setting up more settlements and annexing Jerusalem, in addition to the numerous measures that it has practiced against our people.

'Abd-al-Shafi said: At any rate, now we are facing a fait accompli, which will confront us with new threats. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Jamil al-Hamami, one of the most prominent Islamic figures in the occupied territories, said: I am pained and saddened over what happened in Cairo. Is this how one manages the future of a people and nation and the struggle of generations of people? If this is proof of anything, it is lack of seriousness in discussing the Palestinian people's fate and the Palestinian cause.

Al-Hamami said: This agreement represents a great obstacle to achieving a just and comprehensive peace and to realizing the Palestinian people's aspirations. We

in the occupied territories feel very sad in light of Israeli arrogance, the settlers' practices, and the U.S. Administration's support for Israel.

Al-Hamami added: This is a temporary and not a permanent agreement because it does not respond to the aspirations and hopes of our Muslim Palestinian people, who have been patient and have suffered and endured. I do not think this is the end as the agreement is stillborn. [passage omitted]

Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi said that the Palestinian people deal with reality and not with conferences, papers, and political positions. They are endeavoring to remove and end the occupation. She added that while the agreement was being signed in Cairo by the PLO chairman, Israel continued to impose a blockade on Jerusalem and settlers were engaged in provocative acts.

Dr. 'Ashrawi said: We are not against peace, but the process should be based on fundamental considerations and a cumulative momentum that lead to obtaining rights, not beautifying them and maintaining the occupation.

For his part, Faysal al-Husayni said: It was not necessary to abide by the date of the signing of the agreement and to leave important issues. It would have been better to postpone the signing until an agreement with clear outlines was reached.

In a related development, most of the Palestinian figures in the occupied territories who support the peace process refused to attend the signing ceremony to express their reservations to the agreement.

Abu-Rahmah Stresses Need for 'Generous' Help To Gaza

LD0505134794 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1100 GMT 5 May 94

[Interview with Dr. Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, former head of Gaza Bar Association, by Philippe Rochot in Gaza—live, in English with superimposed French translation]

[Text] [Rochot] I have with me Dr. Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, who is close to Yasir 'Arafat, who has fought here for the peace agreements, and whom I am going to ask whether in the end he is not disappointed to see that these agreements are taking a long time to get implemented, in particular the arrival of the Palestinian police that was expected today.

[Abu-Rahmah] No, it is a practical question, and we think they will be here by next week.

[Rochot] You aren't worried because a lot of extremists want to attack the peace process?

[Abu-Rahmah] No, we aren't afraid, we aren't worried. The extremists have their opinions, and the others have theirs. That is democracy.

[Rochot] How do you see your relations with the Israelis after this agreement?

[Abu-Rahmah] They will be cordial relations, and we hope this peaceful coexistence will develop.

[Rochot] There are a lot of people without work here. There are no jobs. How do you see the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip?

[Abu-Rahmah] Yes, the unemployment problem is extremely serious. We hope the Israelis will help to employ a certain percentage of the population. Others will be a burden for the Palestinian administration.

[Rochot] You are also expecting help from the European Community, but you haven't received anything?

[Abu-Rahmah] Yes, we are expecting their help. We hope it will be generous, because the Gaza Strip is a very poor place, without resources. Its only resources are its people. We hope its men and women will be able to be productive in one way or another, and we hope that one day Gaza will become the Hong Kong of the Middle East.

Palestinian Figures Pessimistic About Cairo Agreement

JN0505105394 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5-6 May 94, p 5

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Natasha Bukhari]

[Text] Amman—Palestinians are suspicious of agreements on paper and are anticipating the actual implementation of the historic accord on self-rule of Gaza and Jericho, according to Salih Ra'fat, a member of the Palestine Central Council.

"Palestinians are suspicious of the new Cairo agreement, especially with the Israeli occupation forces' closure of the city of Jerusalem and the military constraints Israelis are exercising on Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip," Mr. Ra'fat told the JORDAN TIMES on Wednesday [4 May].

PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin Wednesday signed the agreement on self-rule in Gaza and Jericho in Cairo. The agreement, which was under negotiation for the last six months, will clear the way for the first Israeli withdrawal from the Palestinian areas it seized in the 1967 war.

Palestinians are divided in the way they look at the peace talks. There are those who fully support the talks and back the negotiators. Then there are those who back the principle of peace but want a tougher stand in negotiations. And last there are those who oppose the principle of making peace with Israel altogether.

Ibrahim Qub'ah, also a member of th Palestine Central Council, told the JORDAN TIMES that he saw the signing of the Cairo agreement as a coup which is bound to shock and confuse the Palestinians no matter how prepared they though they wee. "While Nayif Hawatimah says that Wednesday was a black day in the history

of the Palestinian people, I consider it to be a milestone that marks the beginning of the ushering in of an independent Palestinian entity," said Mr. Qub'ah.

Nayif Hawatimah, the leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), and George Habash, the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) lead a 10-faction coalition that includes the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas. The coalition operates from Damascus, and has followers in the occupied territories.

Mr. Qub'ah urged Mr. Hawatimah to show courage and stop talkinig about nothing but the "humiliating submission of the PLO."

Mr. Ra'fat, a member of the DFLP faction that supports the peace talks accused Palestinian negotiators of submitting to humiliating conditions in the Cairo agreement which, he said, contradicts the clauses of the Oslo agreement. He said that while the Oslo agreement gave Israelis the right to secure order only within Israeli settlements, the Cairo agreement sitpulates that Israeli forces will continue to operate in Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

Ibrahim Abu 'Ayyash, also a member of the Palestine Central Council, urged all Palestinians to join forces to make successful the implementation of the Cairo agreement, which, he said, fell short of addressing major issues. Mr. Abu 'Ayyash added that one cannot but fear the consequences of the autonomy accord as it failed to attain major achievements.

"While we are signing peace agreements, Israelis are establishing more settlements in different areas of the occupied territories, and that is very worrying," Mr. Abu 'Ayyash said.

Mr. Ra'fat, however, said that he hoped for the establishment of a "real" Palestinian authority in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in order to reclaim Jerusalem and end all forms of Israeli occupation.

Mr. Qub'ah criticized the Palestinian negotiators for what he called their failure to coordinate with the Jordanian government where the peace talks are concerned.

"Palestinians and Jordanians are one body, and this lack of coordination will reflect negatively on the future Palestinian entity if the situation is not corrected," Mr. Qub'ah said.

Hamas To Continue Efforts To Scuttle Accord

JN0505170894 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 May 94 p 20

[Text] London: Quds Press—The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has stated that it does not recognize any agreements the PLO concludes with Israel. The movement, opposed to the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles agreement, says it will continue to work to scuttle the accord. The statements were made by Hamas' spokesman Muhammad Nazal in a telephone interview. He told Quds Press "this and previous agreements are not binding on the Palestinian people, and represent only their signers." These agreements, in our eyes, renounce our people's and nation's rights to the land and sanctitities, as he put it.

Nazzal stressed that his movement will resist this agreement with the same intensity it did before it was signed. Hamas will enhance coordination with other opposition Palestinian forces to cope with the challenges associated with the agreement. His movement, he said, will revitalize the alliance opposed to the negotiations with Israel that was instituted months back.

Islamic Jihad To Pursue Fight Despite Agreement

JN0505172294 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 May 94 p 20

[Text] London: Quds Press—The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine has stated that it will carry on with its fight against Israeli occupation, despite the signing of the agreement launching self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

A statement sent by the movement to Quds Press says the signing of the agreement "shows how lightly our people's appeals have been taken."

The movement, which takes a negative view of the peace negotiations with Israel, said "the agreement amounts to capitulation and will not bring peace." "The causes that triggered the intifadah are still there," it emphasized.

The agreement 'Arafat and Rabin signed in Cairo yesterday skirts the substance of occupation, the Islamic Jihad said. This shoddy agreement, the movement's statement warned, lays the groundwork for other wars in the region in that it represents complete acquiescence in Zionist dictates and terms.

Oppositionists' Criticism of Agreement Reported

JN0605090894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 6 May 94

[Excerpts] A general strike was observed in Jerusalem and other occupied Arab territories for the second consecutive day in protest against the self-rule agreement. A period of general mourning, called for by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], prevails throughout the occupied Arab territories.

News agencies described the atmosphere in the occupied territories. They said a state of apprehension and disappointment is prevailing in these territories. 'Abd-al-Karim Sidr, a leading Fatah member in Jericho, described the situation in Jericho as inconvenient. He said there is Palestinian anxiety because of the large gap between Palestinians in the occupied territories and the Palestinian team that negotiates with Israel. [passage omitted]

Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, held a news conference yesterday. They criticized the Cairo agreement, saying that it does not meet the Palestinian people's demands and that it completely ignores both the UN resolutions and international legitimacy. Hawatimah and Habash added that this agreement will not be binding on the Palestinian people.

Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, said the agreement would fail within three months. In a statement, Jibril added that the Alliance of Palestinian Forces will continue its struggle against Israeli occupation.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, said the self-rule agreement bestows legitimacy on occupation, injustice, and repression, adding that this agreement will not last long. Ibrahim Ghawshah, official Hamas spokesman, stressed the failure of the agreement on implementing the self-rule, which was signed by 'Arafat and Rabin in Cairo the day before yesterday. This agreement will not succeed, he noted.

In a statement yesterday, Ghawshah added that the agreement does not meet any of the Palestinian people's aspirations and demands regarding liberation, repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of a Palestinian state. Instead, the agreement increased the Palestinian people's fragmentation and revealed the impotence and fragility of the PLO leadership in Tunis. Ghawshah said the most serious result of this agreement is that it diverted attention from Israeli occupation and created tremendous internal contradictions, which Rabin and Peres sought to foster when they promptly signed the agreement.

Concluding his statement, Ghawshah called on the Palestinian people in and outside the occupied territories to close ranks and unify their position in order to topple this agreement. [passage omitted]

Opposition Views 'Arafat 'Concessions'

PM0505131494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 May 94 p 5

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "10 Factions Attack 'Concessions'; Islamic Jihad Pledges To Step Up Attacks; Popular Front Will Not Confront Palestinian Police"]

[Text] Damascus—The 10 Palestinian oppositionist factions have said that the signing yesterday of the agreement on the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho accord is the culmination of a "series of concessions" offered by President Yasir 'Arafat. They pledged to step up the "struggle against the occupation," politically and militarily. They stressed their refusal to participate in the self-rule authority. However, they indicated their wish to avoid any "confrontation" with the Palestinian police.

Talal Ahmad, media spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] led by George Habash, said that the agreement "is the culmination of the concessions that led to the self-rule authority agreement. It gives Israel complete control at all levels." In a statement to AL-HAYAH he said that the PFLP will not participate in the self-rule authority, "but we will not allow any violent confrontations against the Palestinian authority or the police. We will continue our struggle against Israel and the occupation wherever they exist in order to secure a settlement that offers the Palestinian people a just solution." He stressed the PFLP's intention of moving its decisionmaking to the occupied territories in the light of recent developments on the Palestinian scene. He pointed out that the "agreement should take place inside and that it should be basically confronted inside."

On the possibility of PFLP cadres' entry into the Gaza Strip, he said that the return is "a right for everyone. It has nothing to do with the (position on the) agreement."

Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement, told AL-HAYAH that the agreement "confirms that what is intended is the establishment of an entity subservient to the Zionist entity both economically and at the security level." He said that the agreement does not provide for a Palestinian state plan. He warned that he will confront the agreement by reactivating military and political action.

A spokesman for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] led by Nayif Hawatimah said that the agreement "is not binding on the Palestinian people." And that yesterday "was not the end of Palestinian national history, but, rather, the beginning of a new phase of struggle whose task is to topple the self-rule and continue the struggle."

In a statement issued by him he went on: The agreement "has exposed all attempts at deception and cheating and all the false allegations about the partitioned self-rule in Gaza and Jericho."

The "central leadership" of the [Palestinian Forces] Alliance held a meeting yesterday evening to discuss ways of conducting action after the signing of the agreement. Hamas considered yesterday an "ill-omened" day in the Palestinians' history. It said that those who signed the agreement "do not represent our people," and the agreement is not binding on the Palestinians.

A statement issued by the movement said what happened in Cairo "is a cheap sellout of the homeland represented in a weak and disfigured self-administration controlled by Zionist domination and sovereignty."

Having pointed out that the agreement "is not binding" on the Palestinian people and that those who signed it "do not represent them," the movement urged "all Palestinian factions and influential figures to unite their

efforts to oppose this sinister agreement...and not to be dragged in any way into violence or fighting among brothers of one people."

Concluding, the statement said that the agreement "will not represent the end of history, because no treaties are going to abolish the Palestinian people's claim to their homeland and holy places. One day our people will tear up this agreement, just as they have torn up all documents of abandonment throughout history."

Arab Liberation Front Condemns Self-Rule Agreement

JN0505121994 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] The Central Committee of the Arab Liberation Front [ALF] has condemned the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement between the PLO and the Zionist entity.

A spokesman for the ALF Central Committee has stated that the ALF condemns this agreement, announces that it rejects it, and that it will not comply with all that results from it. This is because this agreement is the result of successive concessions that began at Madrid and continued until the Gaza-Jericho agreement was reached.

The statement [as heard] said: We are confident that such agreements cannot cancel our historic right to our entire homeland or prevent our people from continuing their struggle as part of a comprehensive Arab confrontation that will undoubtedly come under the banner of the immortal Mother of Battles led by the nation's knight and hero and the Arab mujahid leader, Saddam Husayn.

Former PLO Member Assails Agreement as 'Unfair'

JN0505184194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 May 94 p 20

[Text] London: Quds Press—A former PLO Executive Committee member has termed yesterday's agreement launching self-rule in Gaza and Jericho; unfair. Shafiq al-Hut, the PLO's representative in Beirut, told Quds Press "the agreement puts the Palestinian people's fate and cause on the line."

Al-Hut, who resigned his PLO membership to protest the September signing of the Declaration of Principles agreement, criticized the results of arduous negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis. The agreements that spelled out the declaration of principles have confirmed the opponents of the Oslo accord in their assessment that there has been a climbdown on key issues. Al-Hut said that, initially, the Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat balked at signing the detailed annexes of the agreement seeing that they had unforessen concessions that took him by surprise, thus pointing up the existence of differences blocking a final deal.

PLO To Withdraw Fatah Members, Weapons From Lebanon

NC0505140494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1338 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Beirut, 5 May (MENA)—The PLO will be taking steps to withdraw its weapons and armed men from Lebanon and to eliminate all evidence of its military and semi-military presence on Lebanese territories.

Palestinian sources have said that the PLO will withdraw between 200 and 500 Fatah members in the first stage along with weapons and military equipment.

The sources added that they expect the Lebanese army to deploy in the areas where the Palestinian camps are situated with the aim of strengthening the state's authority over all the areas in Lebanon.

Poll Shows Majority of Hebron Residents Favor Accord

TA0405133994 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 4 May 94 pp 1, 7

[Excerpt] The Palestinian Opinion Poll Center, supervised by Dr. Nabil Kawkali, has polled the residents of Hebron and its suburbs and asked the following questions:

1. Do you support the Palestinian leadership in signing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement in Cairo? 54.2 percent—yes
37.3 percent—no
8.5 percent —no opinion

2. Do you believe in the need to hold popular celebrations as happened after the Oslo accord? 24.4 percent—yes
60.8 percent—no
14.8 percent—no opinion

3. Do you believe that Israel is serious in implementing the agreements which it will sign with the PLO? 32.7 percent—yes
52.4 percent—no
14.9 percent—no opinion

4. Are you confident of the PLO's capability in managing the coming authority? 51.4 percent—yes
30.1 percent—no
18.5 percent—no opinion

5. Do you see a need for cooperation between the coming Palestinian authority and the opposition?T 79.7 percent—yes
12.1 percent—no
8.2 percent—no opinion

The poll was conducted among 367 residents of Hebron and its suburbs. [passage omitted]

Economist on Territories Economic Situation

TA0305145294 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM TIMES in English 29 Apr 94 p 6

[Interview with Sufyan Sultan, member of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction, by Kawthar Salam; place and date not given]

[Text] Q: What is your evaluation of the current economic situation in the occupied territories today?

A: The economic situation is very difficult and embarrassing. The circumstances in which we are now, with the closure of the occupied territories, the curfews, the inability of people to commute or reach Jerusalem, and the prohibition of laborers to reach their places of work in Israel, have paralyzed the whole situation in a way never seen before in our area. Shops have closed and factories are empty, becoming a burden to their owners. The people have become a consumer society using their savings if they have any.

The loss to our economy is between $6-7 million daily, not to mention the mental stress through which the people are going.

Q: What about the economic loss in Hebron?

A: The situation in Hebron is a little different, and the losses there are worse than in all other parts of the occupied territories combined. The daily losses in Hebron alone, during the closure, have been $2 million, and the overall effect is very visible.

Q: What are the necessary requirements to develop the Palestinian economy in the next stage?

A: The requirements could be summarized in the following points:

1. Political and social stability. Giving the people the freedom to make their own choices politically and economically. This is one of the most important elements for the development of the Palestinian economic situation. When they are given the freedom to choose, then more doors are open to them, and they have the opportunity to develop economically.

2. Organizing the infrastructure of the Palestinian authority and its public and primary institutions so that it will be ready to operate.

3. Determining the legal framework and required legislation for the economic and social activities that will give Palestinians the opportunity to lay down social and economic laws that are required for economic development.

4. Continuing the development of human and natural resources to provide an effective basis for economic activities, which includes raising the standards of the Palestinian individuals in all domains, knowing that the availability of human resources is very important.

5. Concentrating on the financial infrastructure for the Palestinian economy, as well as the social infrastructure, and limiting priorities, such as correction of the health situation, water networks, sewage systems, roads, modes of transportation and power networks.

Setting up a strong industrial base in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which includes support for the already existing industries, and at the same time, develop new industries.

Expanding housing developments to absorb the growing population and those returning from the diaspora.

Encouraging the export sector and finding the necessary support services for that sector.

Expanding and developing the agriculture sector including the livestock sector.

Developing the Palestinian countryside, which in turn will create jobs for the unemployed as well as providing educational, health and entertainment services, so that the countryside will start attracting people.

Organizing the financial sector to serve those investing in the economy through different institutions.

6. Strengthening Palestinian economic ties with the other Arab countries and the world, and opening new markets in order to promote and sell various Palestinian goods.

7. Using natural resources to the maximum.

It is also important to let all Palestinians, inside and outside the occupied territories, invest in the infrastructure and facilitate the opportunities for those abroad, in terms of tax reductions and so on.

Q: How do we achieve Palestinian economic independence in the transitional period?

A: There is a Palestinian plan for development until the year 2000. If implemented according to all economic principles, it will be a good start for an independent Palestinian economy. I think that in the absence of occupation and with the presence of a Palestinian authority, economic independence from the Israelis will follow. It will give the Palestinians the opportunity to develop and take charge of themselves.

Q: Do you see any dangers facing the Palestinian economy in terms of the funding which has been pledged by various institutions and countries?

A: There are studies which deal with the needs of the Palestinian economy, the most important of which are the ones done by the World Bank and the Palestinian plan for development until the year 2000. This plan will take an estimated $12 billion.

There are promises from the World Bank and some countries to support the latter plan depending on its priorities. Several agreements were signed in regards to it.

Some EC countries have also shown their willingness to support certain projects. Some of the support will be in the form of grants and some in the form of loans without any strings attached. If used correctly, this money will aid in building the economy.

Cairo Accord Seen as 'New Stage' for Palestinians

TA0505160994 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 5 May 94 p 11

[Editorial: "The Significance of the Signing of the Agreement"]

[Text] It can be said that with the signing of the agreement on implementing the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles in Cairo yesterday by Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin a new stage in the history of the Palestinian people has begun. This stage will have repercussions—which hopefully will be positive—on the overall situation in the region, although this will definitely depend on subsequent developments, whether in terms of the Israeli side's approach in implementing the agreement objectively and reasonably or in terms of local and internal Palestinian, Arab, and even Israeli positions.

For example, on the Palestinian level the new agreement requires a maximal spirit of positive citizenship, a sense of responsibility, and a realization that the stage which the Palestinian people have entered is actually fundamentally different from previous stages in their history.

Now the entire world is watching to see how the Palestinians will deal with the opportunity that has been given to them to prove that they not only deserve this opportunity but also that they can exploit it well. If the Palestinian people's sons prove their competence and their social, political, and civilized cohesion, this will convince the international community—enemies more than friends—that the Palestinian people are worthy of the legitimate rights which they are demanding.

The Palestinians alone do not bear the future consequences of the agreement. The Israeli side, which possesses the powers of implementation and—if it so desires—the ability to place temporary or sometimes permanent obstacles, is more than a partner in determining the agreement's future. Negotiations are still being held over some pending issues in the agreement itself despite the fact that the two sides have signed the agreement. In reality, there are many Israeli practices that encumber the residents and do not conform with the agreement's spirit. Among these are the continued closure of Jerusalem to the occupied territories' residents, the Israeli authorities' delay in releasing thousands of Palestinian prisoners, the measures imposed on Hebron since the al- Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, and the preventing of the majority of Palestinian workers from reaching their work places inside the Green Line.

Despite all the negative points, the agreement reached through intensive efforts by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and his government, the sponsorship of the United States and Russia, and the participation of Norway and other European Community countries and international powers represents—according to the consensus of the international community—a good prospect for launching a new era of peace and coexistence. Also, according to the Palestinian concept, the agreement constitutes an initial step toward the achievement of the Palestinian people's legitimate demands. From this premise, it is the difficult beginning of a long march requiring cooperation and unity for reaching the aspired for inalienable goals.

Paper Criticizes Cairo Accord, 'Peace Speeches'

TA0505191094 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 5 May 94 pp 3, 11

[Editorial: "The Peace Speeches"]

[Text] The high-sounding speeches that we heard yesterday during the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement in Cairo consisted of empty rhetoric to camouflage the reality that what was agreed on neither responds to the Palestinian people's legitimate aspirations nor contributes to the achievement of security, safety, justice, and peace, either in the long-term or short-term.

General talk about peace, security, and prosperity is of no benefit when the agreement's provisions are filled with mines and with everything that is liable to reduce the chances of a just settlement. Moreover, resorting to glittering slogans that talk about the Arab character of Jerusalem and rejection of settlements mean nothing when the speaker himself is prepared to peddle an agreement that neither guarantees Jerusalem's Arab character nor puts an end to settlement activity.

In this context we have to recall al-Sadat's ringing speech from the Knesset's podium several years ago and how this speech established nothing but the Camp David approach and how it failed to contribute at all to the expansion of a peace coveted by all the region's peoples.

Will we be far from the truth if we say that the "peace" speeches that we heard yesterday are copies of al-Sadat's speech without any additions or subtractions?

Editorial Affirms Palestinians' Ability To Assume Power

TA0305154094 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 3 May 94 p 13

[Editorial: "On the Threshold of a New Stage]

[Text] Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will meet today in Cairo to put

the final touches to the agreement on implementing the Declaration of Principles. All evidence indicates that the few issues left for the Palestinian and Israeli leaderships will be resolved, allowing for the agreement to be signed tomorrow as scheduled.

With the signing of the agreement, heavy responsibilities and burdens will be placed on the shoulders of the Palestinians. These are epitomized by the powers and authorities that will be transferred to the Palestinians in the Palestinian transitional rule area and by the management of their own affairs in various spheres. This is an extremely difficult task, requiring a great deal of awareness and maturity, in addition to scientific, management, and technical expertise and skills.

The Palestinians definitely do not suffer from a shortage of capabilities and expertise to run their own affairs and manage various aspects of their lives. Now that they are facing the first challenges of assuming certain security and management powers and authorities in the self-rule area, in addition to other powers that will be handed over to them in the West Bank, they realize well the heavy responsibilities and duties placed on their shoulders and are aware of the dangers and repercussions that might stem from their performance during the stage they are about to enter.

No one can doubt the ability of the Palestinian people to pass the next test and overcome the coming crucial challenges. The process of a full century of struggle to obtain national rights and the ensuing experience and sacrifices have taught the Palestinians the meaning of affiliation to society. Undoubtedly, the apprehension and anticipation dominating the feelings of the Palestinians at this time will disappear with the beginning of serious work to construct the expected entity. This construction must take place within the framework of sincere national affiliation and of placing the supreme interest above any other consideration, as well as of dialogue and mutual respect of opinions, the supremacy of objective and rational concepts, and the proper democratic spirit.

In brief, with their wisdom and efforts and by being open to the world around them, the Palestinians are able to silence the skeptical voices that are rising now, especially from the Israeli side, and which are betting in advance on the Palestinians' inability to cope with the task that will be handed over to them. Certainly, the task is not easy, but the issue concerns the Palestinian people's continuing march, which must move forward regardless of the cost, effort, and sacrifices.

National Council Official Receives UN Commission

LD0605012794 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Brother Abu-al-Adib [Salim al-Za'nun], acting speaker of the National Council, received the delegation of the UN fact-finding commission at his office yesterday afternoon .

After brother Abu-al-Adib reviewed the latest developments of the peace process in Gaza and Jericho, he said that despite the commencement of the peace process and the achievement of the peace agreement, the Israeli authorities were still imposing an economic blockade and security cordon on the West Bank and Jerusalem. Brother Abu-al-Adib stressed that the Palestinian authority would be extremely eager to preserve human rights and liberties there. He also stressed the need for the World Bank and the donor countries to be committed to the support of the Palestinian economy and the creation of job opportunities for thousands of unemployed as a result of the occupation policies.

Brother Abu-al-Adib then listened to a briefing on the fact-finding commission's task from its chairman, Stanley Kalpage, the permanent representative of the Repubic of Sri Lanka at the United Nations, who said that they were visiting the countries neighboring Israel to investigate the Israeli authorities' practices and its breaches of human rights. He added that Israel was not cooperating with the commission and would not allow it to enter Israel or the occupied Arab territories to find out about the Israeli authorities treatment of the Palestinian population there. It is to be recalled that the commission today visited wounded from the Hebron massacre at the Al-Husayn medical complex.

Algeria

President Announces Military Reshuffle

LD0505150994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] The following appointments have been made in the high command of the People's National Army by Liamine Zeroual, head of state and minister of national defense, according to a statement released by the presidency today, Thursday:

- Major General Ahmed Gaid Salah—commander of Land Forces;
- Brigadier General Mohamed Benslimane—commander of the Air Force;
- Brigadier General Said Bey—commander of the 1st Military District;
- Brigadier General Mohamed Bekkouche—commander of the 2d Military District;
- Brigadier General Hocine Benhadid—commander of the 3d Military District;
- Brigadier General Fodil Saidi—commander of the 4th Military District;
- Brigadier General Rabah Boughaba—commander of the 5th Military District.

The statement adds that the Major Generals Khelifa Rahim, Mohamed Mokhtar Boutammine, Ahmed Djenouhat, and Abdelhamid Djaouadi have all been appointed to other duties.

President Phones Yemeni Leaders To Express 'Concern'

LD0505221094 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] This morning, President Liamine Zeroual talked by phone with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and also with 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Yemeni vice president and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party.

During these contacts, the head of state expressed Algeria's great concern over the developments in fraternal Yemen and its hope that there would self-restraint endowed with wisdom, and that they would embark on brotherly and constructive dialogue.

A statement by the Foreign Affairs Ministry said that Algeria has received with extreme concern the news this morning from the Yemeni capital Sanaa. The statement adds that Algeria has previously warned of the dangers of this escalation and hopes that the brothers in Yemen will listen to the call for prudence. Algeria also renews its readiness to exert all its efforts to contribute toward containing this crisis.

Country Urges Yemeni Factions To End Fighting

LD0505183594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] In its capacity as Arab Maghreb Union chairman, Algeria appealed to the brothers in Yemen to put an immediate end to armed confrontation to make room for good efforts, warning of the dangers of this escalation and its dire consequences on civil peace and stability in the region.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman today renewed Algeria's readiness to exert all efforts to contribute toward containing the crisis and giving preference to dialogue among the Yemenis.

Foreign Ministry Welcomes Israeli-PLO Agreement

LD0505190394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Algeria expresses satisfaction at the Palestinian-Israeli agreement that was signed in Cairo yesterday on the implementation of Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories.

A Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman considers this agreement to be important and a new qualitative phase on the road to a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East issue, which takes into account the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and their sovereignty, and their right to establish an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman adds that Algeria, which renews its complete solidarity with Syria, Jordan and Lebanon, is of the view that the peace process in the region necessarily requires the unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories.

Hamas Leader Stresses Dialogue

PM0605092194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 May 94 p 4

[Interview with Shaykh Mahfoud Nahnah, leader of the Algerian Islamic Society Movement, by Kamil al-Tawil in London "the day before yesterday"]

[Excerpts] [Al-Tawil] What is your opinion of the Mokdad Sifi government?

[Nahnah] We had hoped the Algerian authorities would not form a government until national accord had been achieved among men of the political class. We had also hoped that this government would be a coalition government that contributed effectively to resolving the crisis. But Mokdad Sifi's government came after it had become clear that the former government (led by Redha Malek) had resorted to escalation through the anti-terrorism law, whose implementation involved numerous excesses. Besides, the former government considered itself the

heir of the authorities or the real partner of the existing authorities in the country. This is why the state's rhetoric was two-faced and aroused despair among those wishing to conduct a dialogue.

The Sifi government's arrival has given an impetus to the process of national accord, dialogue, and reconciliation which the former government opposed, whereas the head of state was working for it. We are awaiting the government's economic and social program so that we can define our position on it. [passage omitted]

[Al-Tawil] Are you making contacts to coordinate with the parties which believe in dialogue in Algeria?

[Nahnah] We always try to make contacts with sincere people who are alarmed by the terrorism practiced against citizens, the killing of innocent people, and the stealing of public money. These incidents should prompt everyone to work to break down the psychological barriers and establish common denominators in order to agree on a minimum program.

[Al-Tawil] Has Boukhamkham had any contacts with you?

[Nahnah] All I know about the release of brothers Djeddi and Boukhamkham is that they were released under an agreement with the authorities and with the top leadership of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] inside prison. They have authorization so that their actions will at least be legal. In releasing them the authorities have offered part of a down payment. It had been hoped that they would make contacts in several spheres, including the armed groups level, the political class level, and the authorities level. The aim was for the two officials to contain the hotbeds of violence to the best of their ability. But it seems that since their release in mid-Ramadan [last week in February] they have been unable to expand the circle of their contacts to include all influential figures. Some armed groups accuse them sometimes of being agents and of treason. We condemn these accusations leveled at two people who have struggled for a long time for the sake of the [Islamic] call and political action. [passage omitted]

[Al-Tawil] Have you made contacts with the FIS?

[Nahnah] The people who have not been implicated in violence—including those in prison, shura council members, or those who won the (canceled) elections—contact us from time to time. There are contacts between us and them. Some ask our opinion; others do not. We are advocates of dialogue and understanding. We are opposed to excluding some people because of their political ideology and principles.

[Al-Tawil] Is Algeria actually moving toward civil war?

[Nahnah] The problem is that there are some people who exaggerate Algeria's problem, and others who play down the problem. Algeria is suffering a crisis. But it is an exaggeration to say that it has entered a civil war. The country is suffering what can be termed sedition. [passage omitted]

[Al-Tawil] How do you justify your agreement to join the transitional assembly when you said that the dialogue should be held with those who won the canceled elections?

[Nahnah] Algeria is experiencing a fire, and to avoid shouldering responsibility it to avoid performing a duty. We cannot see a sick person dying and then say we cannot give him medicine until a specialist doctor arrives. We set several conditions for the transitional phase, including shortening it as much as possible. And we believe that the way out of the crisis is to hold elections and announce a schedule for them in order to assure everyone that the country is following a pluralist road.

We also call on the FIS to contribute to extinguishing this fire. When we talk about the FIS, we are talking about citizens. Not all FIS supporters carry weapons or are reckless or foolish. In the FIS there are wise people and people of politics. So we hope that the people of politics will play a role. We also call on the authorities to accept these people in the transitional institutions in order to guarantee curbing the violence which has continued for long. [passage omitted]

The FIS should announce that it is not behind the operations aimed against citizens in general, including policemen, traders, journalists, professors, intellectuals, politicians, and Foreign Ministry employees. Because what is happening is going to generate grudges that will continue for many years.

[Al-Tawil] What is your opinion of the dialogue method pursued by President Zeroual?

[Nahnah] It is serious but not useful

[Al-Tawil] You always focus on dialogue and the need for it. Have tried to make contacts or meet with Abassi Madani?

[Nahnah] I submitted a request (to meet with Madani), but the authorities have not responded. My request still stands. With a group of influential politicians in the country, I also offered to form a delegation to meet with those held in prison (FIS leaders) or those under house arrest, or after their release, in order to agree on a minimum program that contributes to reviving hope. The request still stands and we hope it will be met.

[Al-Tawil] Why do you believe the request has been turned down?

[Nahnah] The authorities have begun their dialogue at the defense minister (Zeroual) level with FIS leaders inside prison. They heve also conducted a dialogue with the parties.

Released FIS Officials on Conditions To End Bloodshed

LD0505143194 Rabat MAP in English 1413 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Algiers, May. 05 (MAP)—Two leaders of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front 'FIS' who were released last February said 'bloodshed will stop in Algeria if there is proof that authorities will not hamper the project of an Islamic state and confiscate free choice of people'.

The two FIS leaders who granted an interview to pro-Islamic AL BAYANE daily said those who were forced to take arms for political reasons will end up opting for a way that will spare the lives of Muslims, restore security and faith, respect the nation's will to change and end injustice affecting innocent people. To a question on whether armed wings will comply to the Islamic party's eventual call to lay down arms, Abdelkader Boukhemkhem and Ali Jeddi said the FIS leaders strongly believe that their move will yield results because it is based on the charia (Islamic law) and on the people's trust as well as on cooperation with reformist forces of the country.

The two men who were sentenced to 4 years imprisonment proposed four requisites likely, in their opinion, to bring about a climate favorable to the quest of solution: 'ending injustice affecting people, lifting restrictions imposed on political freedom and information, charity and daawa (Islamic call) moves, lifting all obstacles preventing the FIS from undertaking its civilizational mission and restore to people the right to have a say'.

They also voiced optimism that Algeria will overcome the crisis if the authorities meet requests of parties which enjoy popular credibility. For the two men, there are fundamental convergences on the assessment of the situation among the FIS leadership, five major political parties, ulema (Islamic scholars) and political figures.

Egypt

Government Calls For Halt to Yemen Fighting

Mubarak Urges 'Self-Restraint'

NC0505212794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has issued another appeal to the Yemeni leaders to end the fighting. He warned of the grave consequences of the spreading confrontation between the armed forces in northern and southern Yemen and said that the situation is ominous and has been so since the start of the current crisis.

In his appeal, the president said: Wishing to avoid an armed confrontation among the sons of the Yemeni people, I called upon you repeatedly to exercise self-restraint, resort to reason, and seek understanding and reconciliation through dialogue. With this same motive, Egyptian mediation was and still is active. I have repeatedly warned of the dangers involved in a clash that would be difficult to contain.

President Mubarak said: I call on Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to use the powers of his office in making the decisions necessary to end the current fighting in the country, separate the troops, and deflect the imminent danger the current strife portends for all Yemenis.

In his appeal, President Mubarak said that a decision to halt all military operations on both sides and separate the troops will thwart the designs of those who conspire against the sons of the Yemeni people and their unity and give dialogue, reason, and logic a chance to prevail.

President Mubarak added: I trust that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih will side with the interests of the Yemeni people and stop the fighting before it turns into a full-fledged civil war that would engulf Yemen in great dangers and whose complications will be hard to control or reverse. President Mubarak said that everyone would place Yemeni interests above all considerations.

Foreign Ministry Voices 'Deep Regret'

NC0505124194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 May (MENA)—Egypt has expressed its deep regret over the serious escalation in the struggle in Yemen. This was contained in a statement issued by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry today.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry's statement said that halting the fighting in Yemen has become an urgent necessity, which Egypt demands anew.

The statement called on all Yemeni parties to refrain from attempting to impose a fait accompli by force, to give a chance to the efforts aimed at putting an end to the bloody clashes, and to spare the Yemeni people untold dangers.

The statement stressed that a wise and responsible dialogue is the correct way to settle differences and safeguard the interests of the fraternal Yemeni people. The statement explained that since the beginning of the crisis in Yemen, Egypt, led by President Husni Mubarak, has exerted intensive efforts to prevent the differences from worsening and to avert the impending dangers to Yemen's unity and its people's unity.

The statement said that in view of the deteriorating situation in Yemen in the past few hours, and that situation despite the mediation efforts, Egypt appeals to the warring factions to fully shoulder their responsibility before their people and nation, to stop the clashes immediately, and to realize that there will be no victors or vanquished.

The statement said the Yemeni people will be the ultimate losers who will suffer from the unleashing of the forces of confrontation and aggression and from the destruction that will befall Yemen.

Musa Comments on Plans To Stop Fighting

NC0605102894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has announced that Egypt will submit a number of proposals to the emergency meeting of the Arab League ministerial council to be held on Saturday [7 May]. They will include the possibility of the League's intervention to end the fighting and monitor the situation in Yemen.

In statements today, Musa said Egypt is contemplating submitting a proposal to send Arab troops to Yemen upon the League's decision, and after obtaining Yemen's approval.

Musa said he has contacted the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman, and the United Arab Emirates on developments in Yemen and the ministerial council meeting. After contacting President Mubarak and a number of Arab leaders, Musa urged Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to call an emergency meeting.

Mubarak, Jordan's Husayn Discuss Cairo Accord

NC0505203694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from King Husayn of Jordan tonight, during which they discussed the signing of Palestinian-Israeli Agreement. The Jordanian king expressed appreciation for Mubarak's efforts which led to the signing of the agreement.

Musa Comments on Importance of Self-Rule

NC0505154594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 May 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 5 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated the importance of the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement to implement self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, which took place in Cairo yesterday.

In remarks he made today, Musa described the agreement as "good," noting that it is the first step toward reaching a comprehensive solution for the Palestinian issue. Musa pointed out that the implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian self-rule agreement in Gaza and Jericho will begin in a week or two, with the return of Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and senior PLO officials. He noted that the first step will be implemented in Gaza and Jericho, to be followed by extending the Palestinian authority over the remaining Palestinian territory in the West Bank. He added: Other steps have been agreed upon and we hope the pace of the peace process will accelerate to reach the final stage as soon as possible and within two years of the implementation of the agreement.

Musa emphasized that any step toward achieving peace and stability in the region will have a positive impact on all the region's countries. He noted that Egypt is interested in establishing peace and stability in the region. He pointed out that if the Arab-Israeli conflict is resolved in accordance with the resolutions of the international community and through negotiations and agreements among the parties concerned, the region will undoubtedly enter a better stage. It will be a stage of cooperation and development in which the region's peoples can enjoy peace.

On U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's recent talks in Damascus, Musa noted that such meetings show Syria's interest in the U.S. role regarding the peace process. [passage omitted]

South Korean Envoy Leaves, Comments on Talks

NC0505144894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 5 May 94

[Excerpts] Cairo, 5 May (MENA)—Dr. Han Wang-san, the South Korean president's envoy and former deputy prime minister [name and title as received], described his talks with President Husni Mubarak as fruitful and beneficial.

In exclusive statements he made to MENA this morning prior to his departure for Tanzania via Germany, he said that his visit to Egypt was to participate in the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Agreement. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question, he said that he discussed with President Mubarak the question of raising South Korea's diplomatic representation in Cairo to the ambassadorial level. He added that President Mubarak showed an understanding of the situation and this issue will be discussed at the proper time. [passage omitted]

On Korea's aid to the Gaza-Jericho area, he said that his country has allocated around $12 million to help rebuild and develop this area's infrastructure in addition to another $200,000 allocated for preparing and equipping the Palestinian police.

On the situation in the Korean peninsula and the possibility of war in the region, the South Korean envoy said that North Korea will achieve a gain for itself and the region if it accepts nuclear inspection but will lose if it rejects this inspection. He added: North Korea has to balance between gain and loss and on the basis of this formula, the outbreak of war in the peninsula seems impossible, especially as North Korea is officially saying that it has no intention of developing nuclear weapons, does not have the capability to develop them, and has no intention of going to war. But if it rejects inspection, then this will create a major problem.

Saudi Petroleum Minister Arrives on Visit

NC0505164494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 May (MENA)—Saudi Petroleum Minister Dr. Hisham al-Nazir arrived in Cairo from Saudi Arabia this afternoon on a visit of several days during which he will participate in the 5th Arab Energy Conference that starts here on Saturday [7 May].

He was received at the airport by Petroleum Minister Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi.

Security Organs Hope To Extradite Shaykh

NC0505142294 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 29 Apr 94 p 1

[Excerpt] The AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I correspondent has learned that the Egyptian security organs will contact U.S. authorities through Interpol to deport Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, the mufti of the al-Jihad Organization in Egypt, following the ruling of the Higher State Security Court-Emergency yesterday sentencing him to seven years at hard labor.

A security source said that the necessary measures will be taken to deport the defendant on the basis of the court's ruling. He added that there is coordination with the concerned authorities in the United States because of the absence of an extradition treaty between the two countries. The security source also stressed to the paper's correspondent 'Adil al-Suruji that countries take into consideration bilateral relations and the principle of equal treatment in such important cases. [passage omitted]

Talks Between Nasirists, 'Extremists' Reported

NC0605082894 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 2 May 94 p 12

[Report by Ibrahim Khalil]

[Excerpts] The talks between the Nasirists and the extremist groups has resumed following a seminar held by writer Fahmi Huwaydi and organized by the Nasirite Party. During the seminar, Huwaydi said he carried a message from the religious groups and the Islamic movement. Following the seminar, the Nasirite-Islamic meetings increased.

For some time [leading Nasarist] Farid 'Abd-al-Hakim has been promoting the idea of talks and coalition between the two sides. He has been in touch recently with jailed members of the extremist groups as one of their lawyers, along with Muntasir al-Zayyat. Lawyer Sayyid 'Abd-al-Fattah, who has been arrested in connection with the Salsabil case [computer company said to be connected with Muslim Brotherhood], attended these meetings.

During the meetings, the extremists claimed that their opinion of the Nasirists had changed and that now they consider them the closest political force to the general Islamic principles. They noted that they and the Nasirists now see eye to eye on most issues, particularly their stance on Israel and the West. [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Isam al-'Iryan, member of the Muslim Brotherhood, has stressed that the doors are open for dialogue with any faction. He added that he has met with Farid 'Abd-al-Hakim, whom he described as clear and well-motivated. He added that the important things in this dialogue are the bases, the subjects, and the goals. Dr. al-'Iryan pointed out that the Muslim Brotherhood has nothing to do with what happens in the meeting of the political bureaus of the Labor and Nasirite parties because the Labor Party has freedom of action. He noted that the alliance between the Labor Party and the Muslim Brotherhood still stands in specific areas, such as running for elections and coordination over general positions.

Pope Shanudah on Religion, Politics

NC0605063194 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 29 Apr 94 pp 24-25

[Interview with Coptic Pope Shanudah by Sana' al-Sa'id in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Sa'id] There has been a lot of talk in Cairo about an upcoming conference on minorities in the Middle East. This conference considers Egypt's Copts a religious minority. How do you feel about that?

[Shanudah] We are Egyptians and a part of the Egyptian people. We are not a minority in Egypt. We do not like to consider ourselves a minority and do not like others to call us a minority. The terms minority and majority indicate segregation and discrimination. This does not befit the sons of a single homeland, especially if this homeland is beloved Egypt. If the reason for the use of the terms minority and majority is the difference in religion, the tolerance of religion—any religion—does not permit this discrimination. We are all the descendants of one father, Adam, and one mother, Eve.

If the Copts have some problems or demands, these matters can be solved in a spirit of amity in the same homeland without the use of the terms minority and majority. These matters can be solved without psychological sensitivities. The attempts, even if they are well meaning, by some to defend the Copts does not necessarily require them to call us a minority.

[Al-Sa'id] Can it be said that under the new world order the attempts to stir up religions chauvinism and deepen the struggle among the parties have increased? Israel exploited this situation when it warned against the so-called Islamic fundamentalism in an attempt to win the sympathy of the West.

[Shanudah] I believe that states are motivated by interests and not religion. The proof is that during World War II the allies joined with communist Russia against Hitler.

It was a temporary alliance. Each state is motivated by its interests and not by religion. If religion enters into the picture, it is marginal, not basic, and its use is temporary. For example, the United States now supports the Jews although it differs in religion with Israel. The whole issue is one of interests.

[Al-Sa'id] But Israel has always concentrated on using religion and on appearing as a religious state.

[Shanudah] In Israel proper religion is part of the state's mechanism. Israel is a state with a Jewish religious character. Jews did not cooperate with non-Jews in old times. The religious aspect is a basic one in Israel. Israel has both political and religious aims.

[Al-Sa'id] This illustrates Israel's racism and double standards in differentiating between its treatment of the Jewish settlers and the Palestinians.

[Shanudah] Naturally, Israel combines religion with racism. Israel's policy contains both elements. The Israelis call themselves "God's people." This expression is religious and has religious connotations. For example, the desire to rebuild the temple is a religious desire. In Israel both racism and religion are permanent fixtures. However, this does not apply to other states. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] What is your opinion of U.S. President Bill Clinton's statement on Jerusalem as the united capital of Israel and that it is not part of the occupied Arab territories?

[Shanudah] Israel views Jerusalem as an essential issue. The United States should not have gone to this extent to appease Israel. It should not have made such a statement. The U.S. Administration retracted the statement later. It perhaps realized that it should not have gone this far, that it has hurt all the Arab countries, and that it has disregarded the feelings of the Muslims all over the world. For this reason, Clinton corrected the mistake and said that the issue of Jerusalem will be discussed in the political dialogue. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] While Israel has been trying to deepen Jewish religious chauvinism, it has tried to accuse the neighboring countries of extremism and terrorism. Isn't this considered a kind of ideological conflict?

[Shanudah] Israel is the last country in the world that can accuse others of extremism and terrorism because the description applies to it. The al-Ibrahimi Mosque incident in Hebron is the best proof. Wasn't this an ugly terrorist operation? [passage omitted] Israel has no right to criticize or accuse others while it is involved in terrorism.

[Al-Sa'id] Regarding the existence of religious parties in Israel, there are some who think that the issue of whether we need religious parties or not should be raised in the national dialogue that is expected to be held this month. Some also think that a religious party, after it is established, cannot pull the carpet from under the religious extremists.

[Shanudah] Who said that the Israeli Government can coexist with the religious parties?

[Al-Sa'id] The parties constitute a pressuring factor and the government is afraid of them and seeks to win their support.

[Shanudah] The fact that the government seeks to win the support of the religious parties to ensure a majority in parliament does not mean that it welcomes them. On the contrary, if there were no religious parties the votes would go to the ruling party. We must not find controversial things in other states to emulate them. The existence of one religious party in Egypt will open the door to the formation of many other religious parties because there is no single religious ideology. As Christians we do not approve of this. There is no single religious ideology among the Muslims, and this could create conflicts.

[Al-Sa'id] This means that there is no reason to raise the issue of religious parties?

[Shanudah] In my opinion, if the Islamic trend is allowed to rule, more than one party will surface and these parties will be fighting each other. As it is now, there is a conflict among the various religious groups and each one labels the other atheist.

[Al-Sa'id] What about the Christians?

[Shanudah] We do not accept the establishment of religious parties. We do not accept the existence of a Christian religious party. It is not in our interest or in the interest of the state. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] How can terrorism and violence be stopped? Shall a terrorist be regarded as a sick person who must be treated and reformed or a renegade who must be fought and eliminated?

[Shanudah] First of all, wide-scale enlightenment is an important matter. By enlightenment we mean answering the ideas used by terrorists to convince others to join them. Moderate thought and extremist thought must not run in two parallel lines that never meet. We must study their ideas and answer them. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] Can dialogue be held with blood-thirsty terrorists?

[Shanudah] If it is not possible to hold a dialogue with them, then we must hold dialogue with their ideas. We might not be able to hold a dialogue with a certain person because he might be in jail or in hiding. However, we can hold a dialogue with his ideas. This is one point. Another point is that we must eliminate those who support terrorism using their ideas, arms, and training. Some people encourage terrorism with their ideas, others with

arms, and others by providing training. We must confront these three kinds of people who mostly come from abroad. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] Can we depend on the security services alone?

[Shanudah] The security aspect alone is not enough. Emphasis on it may prolong the battle. An ideological and precautionary approach may preclude new conflicts between the security services and the terrorists.

[Al-Sa'id] Is it difficult for someone to argue with extremist thought and closed mentalities that stick to their ideas?

[Shanudah] It is not a difficult process. It is possible to get rid of old ideas by discussing new ones. It is possible for a person to believe in ideas, including religious ideas, different from his own ideas by discussing them with others. There are those who believe in certain ideas and then abandon them as a result of religious discussions. I discuss ideas and do not refer to persons. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] In your opinion, what has caused this attack on religion? Who has encouraged attacks on religion at this particular time?

[Shanudah] Freedom of thought has been exploited beyond its boundaries. We are in an age in which freedom can be used incorrectly to attack old religious values. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] Can the phenomenon of attacks on religion be a result of negligence by religious scholars?

[Shanudah] The phenomenon of attacks on religion is part of a general atmosphere. Just as there are attacks on religion, there are also attacks on law, politicians, family, and principles and ideals. [passage omitted]

Columnist Criticizes State Media Monopoly

NC0605084894 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 28 Apr 94 p 6

[Column by Dr. Ibrahim Dasuqi Abazah]

[Excerpts] Who owns the radio and television in Egypt? Why does the government monopolize these media and prevent the opposition from using them? These media are the property of the Egyptian people. They established them and are paying for them. It is the right of all the political and social forces in the country to use these media to air their programs and expound their views without any discrimination. How can the government deprive the opposition of the right to use these media on the pretext that it possesses newspapers that express its views?

The opposition papers, no matter how great their capabilities may be, are only a small fraction of the government-owned press. If we add to this the fact that the government also owns seven radio stations and seven television channels that transmit day and night, we realize the enormous monopoly that the government has on the media and can discover easily the major things that are paralyzing political activity in Egypt and are weakening the parties' ability to appeal to the broad masses of the people.

It is not true that the parties in Egypt are weak. What is true is that the ruling regime does not want strong parties and that it is devoting all its efforts to prevent these parties from reaching the people. The regime achieves this through its control of the major information media and the minds of millions through beamed programs and distorted news. We do not need proof about the extent of the daily propaganda and money used by the government media. It is sufficient to note that the Information Ministry's budget is considered the largest in the Third World. No one has exceeded us in this area except the regime of Kim Il-song, who spends a quarter of North Korea's budget on propaganda for itself and the celebration of his birthday.

We are tired of repeating these facts. There is no other way but to find the means to enable the political forces to bring down this media wall and correct the defect that is affecting the freedom of expression and publication and shrinking the ability of the opposition to undertake effective political action.

The first solution is for the government to give up its monopoly on the media and allocate equal time for all the political parties to air their programs and views. This is a basic right demanded by democracy and repeatedly advocated by the parties, but to no avail. The second solution is for the government to allow the parties and the political forces to establish radio and television stations at their expense. [passage omitted]

If the government rejects the two solutions, the political opposition will have no alternative but to rent satellite television channels or transmission hours to air their programs, even if they have to transmit from outside the country. There are no technological barriers to prevent this. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Called by Yemen's al-Bid

LD0505195294 Tripoli JANA in English 1833 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Maa [May] 5, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—'Ali Salim Al-Bid the vice-president of the Presidential Council in sisterly Yemen made a telephone call with the leader of the revolution expressing his concern for the development of the situation in Yemen.

Following the call, the leader of the revolution made a telephone contact with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih asking for details of the situation in Yemen. The Yemen president debriefed the leader regarding the situation in Yemen and assured him on the situation there.

Contacts still continue between the leader of the revolution, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Vice-President 'Ali Salim Al-Bid to contain the situation and preserve the unity and stability of Yemen.

Unity Committee Calls For Calm in Yemen

LD0605094694 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] A source at the General People's Committee for Unity has made the following statement:

Faced with the serious escalation of events in sister Yemen and the crisis between brothers, which has claimed many victims and has led to bloodshed and the start of a spiral of violence, we are aware of our pan-Arab responsibility to preserve Yemeni unity which is a gain for the Arab nation and which should not be given up. This unity should be preserved and reinforced, and an end should be put to the in-fighting. Such is the goal which the brother leader of the 1 September Revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] has endeavored to achieve with his continuous efforts to bring about reconciliation and protect unionist gains, particularly under the current circumstances in the Arab region and the world and in view of the challenges facing our Arab nation.

Therefore, the duty is to spare the Yemeni Arab people the tragedies resulting from an armed conflict, to resort to reason, and to choose the path of dialogue in order to implement the Pledge and Accord document and also to respond to the will of the Yemeni Arab people to preserve unity and reject in-fighting and the collapse of this unity, which benefits only the enemies of unity and the enemies of the Arab nation.

The unionists and pan-Arabists today have the historical responsibility to preserve the Yemeni unity, which we regard as a prelude to the unity of the Arab nation, to protect its existence and safeguard its independence.

The General People's Committee for Unity in the Great Jamahiriyah calls on the Yemeni leaderships, who have achieved unity, to make efforts to preserve that unity for this is an historical responsibility which they should assume.

JANA Editor Criticizes UN Record on Arab Lands

LD0505172394 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] The JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY's Arab affairs editor has said that the United Nations has failed to implement any of its resolutions against the racist Israeli entity that occupies Arab Palestine and other Arab territories. The editor pointed out that the so-called Security Council has passed roughly 50 resolutions on Palestine. Most of them have been calling for the withdrawal of the Israelis from the occupied Arab territories, be it southern Lebanon, the Golan, or others. However, none of these resolutions have ever been implemented; they have been rejected by the Israelis who showed them contempt.

The Arab affairs editor wondered why the United Nations has not implemented any of its resolutions regarding the racist Israeli entity saying: Why has the United Nations not returned the territories of those Arab states that happened to be UN members. These territories were seized by force by the racist Israelis who decided to annex them and change their demographic, cultural, and political character—a matter that has contravened recognized norms. The editor also indicated that the Israeli entity has exploited the UN failure to put pressure on those concerned Arab parties. It obliged these parties to recognize Israel's racist and alien existence in exchange for its so-called withdrawal from the Arab lands that it has occupied. This condition constitutes an insult to the Arab countries whose land has been occupied. The Arab affairs editor concluded his comments by saying that real peace would not come to the region except with the return of the Palestinian people to their land and homes, the departure of the Israeli invaders and their return to where they came from, and the establishment of a democratic state in Palestine. Without this, peace in the region will remain delusion, fantasy, and unrealistic.

Tunisia

President Phones Algeria's Zeroual on Yemen Peace Efforts

LD0505185294 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Following the escalation of clashes between brothers in the Republic of Yemen, His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali today telephoned his brother president, Liamine Zeroual, the head of state of the Algerian Republic and chairman of the Presidential Council of the the Arab Maghreb Union. His excellency the president suggested that the Union would undertake urgent efforts and make representation to the Yemeni leaders in an effort to achieve conciliation between them, and to spare the blood of the fraternal Yemeni people and safeguard the unity and safety of their territory.

His excellency the president also entrusted the foreign minister to consult with his Algerian counterpart and to contact the Arab League secretary general in order to discuss the means of a common action, to make efforts to restore harmony and understanding between the Yemeni leaders, and to save Yemen from the dangerous complications now threatening its unity and security.

Foreign Ministry Welcomes Cairo Self-Rule Agreement

LD0405200694 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 May 94

[Statement issued by Foreign Ministry; date not given]-

[Text] Following the signing of the agreement on self-rule between the Palestinians and the Israelis, the Foreign Ministry has issued the following statement:

Tunisia has noted with satisfaction today's signing between the PLO chairman and the Israeli prime minister on the agreement to implement the Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, which should initiate the implementation of the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington on 13 September 1993, bolster the peace process in the Middle East, and which is an important step toward a just and comprehensive solution in order to guarantee the legitimate rights of the struggling fraternal Palestinian people and its right to lead a dignified life in a sovereign state.

Tunisia, which has always been tireless in maintaining and consolidating the independence of the Palestinian decision-makers, supporting the Palestinian people's just cause, and following up the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, is hoping that the new agreement will give fresh momentum to continue the peace process at all costs in order to bring about the total Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and peace in the region in accordance with the UN resolution and international legality.

GCC, EU Foreign Ministers To Meet in Riyadh 8 May

LD0605110494 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and their counterparts in the European Union will arrive in Riyadh tomorrow to take part in their fifth joint meeting due to start on Sunday [8 May]. The GCC foreign ministers are expected to hold a [separate] meeting after their arrival to discuss items on the agenda of the [8 May] meeting.

GCC foreign ministry undersecretaries had met early last week to examine the draft joint statement which will be issued at the end of the one-day meeting. Diplomatic sources have reported that the statement is expected to include several topics relating to energy, the environment and the developmnent of economic relations between the two communities, in addition to other issues of mutual interest, foremost the security situation in the Gulf region in the light of the Iraqi regime's refusal to abide by the resolutions of international legitimacy. The peace process in the Middle East and the situation in Bosnia-Herzegivina will also be mentioned in the joint statement.

Kuwait

Foreign Ministry Calls For End To Fighting in Yemen

LD0505194694 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] The State of Kuwait called today for an end to the fighting in Yemen and urged self-restraint to spare the blood and lives of its sons. It hoped that logic and wisdom will prevail as a means to overcome the acute crisis in the country.

An authoritative source at the Foreign Ministry has told the Kuwaiti News Agency that Kuwait is watching with concern the regrettable development of the situation in the Yemen Republic and is urging Yemeni brothers to exercise self-restraint to end the fighting and spare the blood and lives of the country's sons.

The source has added: Kuwait is hoping that logic and wisdom will prevail in order to overcome this acute crisis.

Ambassador Denies Correspondents Imprisoned

LD0505195694 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1826 GMT 5 May 94

[Excerpts] Washington, 5 May (KUNA)—Shaykh Muhammad Sabah al Salim al-Sabah, Kuwait's ambassador to the United States, categorically denied reports that a number of correspondents were prisoners in Kuwait. The ambassador was replying to a letter he received from the American press club. [passage omitted]

The Association of Kuwaiti Correspondents issued a statement a week ago in which it denied that there was any foreign correspondent detained against his will in Kuwait. It stressed that there were no prisoners of conscience in Kuwait but mentioned that there were detainees who collaborated with the Iraqi occupiers for publishing the paper "AL-NIDA." It pointed out that those detainees were not professional correspondents and that most of them were Iraqis and Jordanians. [passage omitted]

Officials Said Concerned Over Austrian, Iraqi Contacts

LD0505135694 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1057 GMT 5 May 94

[Excerpt] Vienna, 5 May (KUNA)—Austrian economic and trading circles have received warnings from Kuwait that the contacts between certain trading and industrial companies in Austria and other European states and the Iraqi regime may have a negative effect on the future of cooperation between Kuwait in particular and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries in general with those companies.

A well-informed Austrian source told KUNA here today that Kuwaiti officials have expressed deep concern over the contacts between some Austrian companies and a delegation from the Iraqi Ba'th Party which visited Austria recently under the leadership of former ambassador 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Hashimi, the director of foreign affairs in the Ba'th party.

The source also said that Kuwait is closely following these contacts and officials consider that "the relevant Austrian and other European companies are in breach of the international sanctions imposed on Iraq" at a time when the Iraqi regime is not committing itself to implementing the UN resolutions as a condition for lifting the economic sanctions imposed on it since it occupied Kuwait in 1990.

Kuwaiti officials do not rule out the possibility of interrupting cooperation with those companies if they continue their contacts and cooperation with the Iraqi regime before it implements all the UN resolutions. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Kingdom Calls For Rationality, End to Fighting in Yemen

LD0505165794 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1517 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Riyadh, 5 May—A responsible source has made the following statement: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is following with great sorrow the continuing fighting between the brothers in brotherly Yemen. In the interests of the brothers in Yemen, the kingdom calls on all to show self-control, stop the fighting, let rationality and

logic reign, and place the interests of Yemen above any other consideration to preserve the blood and souls of its sons. The kingdom is prompted into making this appeal by the hope that the true Islamic and patriotic spirit will prevail to halt these bloody events and calls on God the almighty and all-powerful to prevent every misfortune and adversity in brotherly Yemen.

Papers 'Cautiously' Welcome Signing of Cairo Accord

LD0505135394 Riyadh SPA in English 1314 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Riyadh, May 5, SPA—Saudi papers on Thursday cautiously welcomed the agreement signed on Wednesday [4 May] between the PLO and Israel on the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho peace plan.

The Jeddah-based, AL-MADINAH, said despite reservations on some parts of the agreement, the agreement means that a new phase has begun for practical and realistic actions. While many people think that the agreement is full of deadly mistakes and bears seeds of failure, the paper said, other people thought it will fulfill the ambitions of the Palestinian people of the occupied territories who suffered too much from unemployment and poverty that makes the Palestinian side to soften its negotiation stand.

AL-YAWM, of al-Dammam, said the agreement does not necessarily mean that all standing propblems had been solved because Israel, with a record full of manipulations and deception, many not carry out the agreement honestly. The paper urged the international community and big powers in particularly to guarantee full implementation of the agreement and called on the Palestinian to realise the biggest possible gain of the agreement.

AL-JAZIRAH, published in Riyadh and 'UKAZ, published in Jeddah also tackled the same issue said the agreement would be a real test for the intentions of Israel and whether it is ready to cope with the Arab position on peace process. They said if the agreement is not followed by similar progress on other tracks, it would certainly expose to erosion elements and matters may change for the interests of peace opposing parties in the region.

United Arab Emirates

Zayid Discusses Yemeni Crisis With Egypt's Mubarak

JN0605095494 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] The president, His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, last night telephoned his brother, His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the sisterly Arab Republic of Egypt, and exchanged views with him on the Yemeni developments and ways to contain the crisis and stop the internecine fighting in fraternal Yemen. They also discussed the latest Arab developments within the two presidents' continual contacts and consultations to serve the Arab nation and support Arab solidarity and causes.

Yemen

Fighting Continues; Airport Bombed; Calls for Peace Made

Defense Ministry Appeals for Unity

EA0505200094 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2045 GMT 4 May 94

[Excerpts] A responsible source at the Defense Ministry has stated the following: In continuation of the scenario prepared by the gang of al-Ahmar, whose bloody appetite was stimulated after the aggression against the 3d Armored Brigade in 'Imran, this bloody gang of al-Ahmar, which thirsts for blood and devastation, at 8:15 tonight began to attack the Martyr Ba Suhayb Brigade Camp in Dhamar town. This daring brigade, in these decisive historic moments, is waging a fierce war against the enemies of the homeland and is confronting with bravery, death, and defiance the mercenaries of the adventurist gang of al-Ahmar. [passage omitted]

While the Defense Ministry deals with this crime, it assures the masses of our Yemeni people that it will remain loyal to the pledge by individuals of our armed forces to protect our people and their national and democratic options. In these historic moments, it calls on all the honorable sons of our people, the heroes of their Armed Forces and the generous forces to stand united to confront this imminent danger to the homeland and its unity, and inflict defeat on the bloody gang of al-Ahmar. Our people are lying in wait for them.

Plan in Place To Evacuate Nationals

NC0505131394 Paris AFP in English 1242 GMT 5 May 94

[Excerpt] Dubai, May 5 (AFP)—Heavy gunfire broke out around Yemen's presidential palace in Sanaa early Thursday and rival northern and southern forces bombed the country's two main airports in Sanaa and Aden.

Diplomatic sources contacted from the United Arab Emirates said a plan to evacuate Western nationals could be put into action later in the day.

No southern units are normally deployed in the capital, but a Western diplomat was unable to say whether the gunfire round the palace of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih was between factions of the northern troops.

One source said Sanaa airport had been closed to air traffic after being bombed by southern warplanes but that "the runway was usable."

Anti-aircraft guns blazed into action in Sanaa as southern fighter planes loyal to Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid dropped bombs in a raid on government buildings and the radio and television centre there, an AFP correspondent there reported. [passage omitted]

Military Source Updates Events

JN0505145594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1348 GMT 5 May 94

[Unscheduled statement by Yemeni military source at the Defense Ministry and General Staff Commands on 5 May—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With the help of God and the resolve of brave men, the units of valiant Armed Forces—the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy—in the Lahij, Abyan, al-Bayda', and Ta'izz Governorates continue their confrontations and successive offensives against the units of the forces of evil, wickedness, and apostasy, which have been controlled and commanded by the rebellious, separatist elements in the Socialist Party command since they exploded the military situation in a comprehensive manner last night, beginning with the Dhamar and Aden Governorates, and extending to other governorates.

The forces of constitutional legitimacy—the defenders of unity and democracy—have inflicted successive defeats on all the units that have been pushed into this losing and destructive battle. They forced a large number of those forces to surrender to the will of the people, the power of truth, and the heroism of the forces defending unity and democracy. Other units have surrendered of their own free will, declaring that they have joined the trenches of constitutional legitimacy and the ranks of the defenders of the people and the homeland and their great achievements.

This morning, units from the Ba Suhayb Brigade Camp were forced to surrender and join the ranks of constitutional legitimacy and Yemeni unity.

With the same spirit of defending unity and democracy and defeating the forces of treachery, apostasy, and separation, the forces of the 2d Armored Brigade in the al-Rahah area continue their great steadfastness, warding off all the fires of rancor, which will be defeated, God willing.

In the al-Bayda' and Abyan Governorates, the forces of the 56th Brigade, 3d Armored Brigade, the 8th Special Forces Brigade, and the al-Wahdah Brigades continue their determined, capable advance as they confront the forces of separation in the Mukayris area. They encircled and seized the 20th Brigade and all its fortifications.

In the same spirit aiming at bolstering the people's unity victory and defeating their treacherous enemies, the supported [muda'am] 3d Infantry Brigade confronted the forces of apostasy and separation in the camps of the al-Rahidah and Sarif areas. They are now continuing their heroic and valiant advance to achieve their mission.

In the city of Aden, our valiant heroes at the Central Security Company in Khormaksar have continued their unique heroic steadfastness in the face of the fierce large-scale aggression carried out against them by a number of the rebelling military units.

In the Ibb Governorate, the forces of the constitutional legitimacy and Yemeni unity have continued their attack on the units and brigades of the forces of apostasy and secession in the al-Dali' region. The forces of the al-Hamzah Camp inflicted heavy losses on the 'Abbud Brigade forces. Fighting is still raging and the treacherous ones, aggressors, and those rebelling against the constitutional legitimacy, of the enemies of the people and unity, will receive their punishment.

Ever since last night, the al-'Amaliqah forces have been heroically confronting the sea and air attacks against them in the Abyan Governorate. They were able to repulse these attacks and prevent them from achieving any of their objectives.

This morning, the capital, Sanaa, and the cities of Ta'izz and al-Hudaydah witnessed air raids by the aircraft of the rebelling secessionist forces, which targeted some vital and strategic installations. These raids also targeted a number of the military brigades in some governorates. The units of the air defense forces confronted them and downed two aircraft belonging to the rebelling secessionist gang in the al-Rahah region, two aircraft in Mukayris, and another aircraft in al-Rahidah.

Last night and this morning, large numbers of officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers willingly handed themselves over to the forces of the constitutional legitimacy, announcing that they want to join these forces, and voicing their rejection of the despicable secessionist conspiracy which was hatched by the secessionist gang in the leadership of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], headed by war criminal, traitor, 'Ali Salim al-Bid and his evil secessionist clique, against the homeland and its unity, and against the people, their freedom, and democracy. The expressed their denunciation of all the criminal acts which resulted in this comprehensive military war which was ignited by this rebelling clique, which will be crushed, God willing.

In a subsequent statement, we will detail the names of these units and the number of the officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers who joined the forces of the constitutional legitimacy and the trench of the Yemeni unity, the party of the one Yemeni people, which is above all the sick parochial, personal, and selfish loyalties, because it is the people's army whose loyalty is to God, the homeland, the revolution, the unity, and democracy.

'All-Out' Fighting in Provinces

NC0505143994 Paris AFP in English 1420 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Sanaa, 5 May (AFP)—All-out fighting erupted Thursday in Yemen between rival troops in seven provinces as five southern warplanes were shot down, a northern military spokesman said here.

The spokesman told the official news agency SABA' that southern forces from Aden had suffered heavy losses in clashes with northern troops in seven of Yemen's 17 provinces.

Aden Radio: Airport Attack Repulsed

EA0505192894 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 May 94

[Statement issued by Defense Ministry source at the Defense Ministry on 5 May—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] In continuation of the bloody events by the adventurist gang of al-Ahmar family, this bloody gang exploded the military situation in numerous areas and positions with the aim of launching our people and their armed forces into a crushing all-out war. This followed the iniquitous aggression by the forces of the Republican Guard, the Central Security, and the military police against the martyr Ba Suhayb Brigade Camp in Dhamar town where this daring brigade confronted, with rare heroism and outstanding bravery, the multitudes of these aggressive forces and inflicted a crushing defeat on them.

At exactly 9 o'clock on 4 May, a unit of the Central Security carried out an act of aggression against Sawlaban Camp and an attack on Aden international airport in an attempt to occupy it or destroy it. However, this attempt quickly failed. Our forces managed to settle the situation quickly in their favor, and the battalion of military police refused to obey the orders of Sanaa to fight against their brothers, the sons of all the Yemeni people. All the battalion's members joined our forces. [passage omitted]

And in a dangerous development of the military and political situation, the adventurist gang in Sanaa resorted to using military aircraft. The citizens of Aden this morning were surprised by a pair of warplanes attacking Aden international airport, but our vigilant air defenses confronted this attack which did not achieve any success worth mentioning.

In response, our fighter aircraft attacked Sanaa, Ta'izz, and al-Hudaydah airport, paralyzing these airports to stop them from being used by this (?reckless) gang in its bloody criminal acts against our people. While the Defense Ministry decisively confronts the adventurist acts of the bloody gang of al-Ahmar family, it notes with extreme gratification that many members of our armed forces and units who are under the control of the Sanaa gang, have refused to fight against their brothers. Another large number joined our forces who are defending unity and democracy. [passage omitted]

Former Officials Urge 'Prudent Intervention'

NC0505162094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 May (MENA)—A number of former Yemeni ministers and officials have called on President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to exert more efforts to save the Yemeni people of the current infighting.

Addressing their plea also to the leaders of Syria, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates, as well as the Arab League secretary general, the former officials said that the strife in Yemen is a result of misjudgment, miscalculation, and ill-advised policies.

'Abdallah al-Asnaj, former Yemeni foreign minister; Qasim Bin- 'Ali al-Wazir, former member of the Advisory Council; Major General 'Abdallah Juzaylan, former deputy prime minister; a former finance minister; a former agriculture minister; and a member of the Ta'izz Popular Congress, all of whom are currently in Cairo, signed the plea.

The Yemeni officials pointed out that Yemen is sinking in a bloodbath and that prudent intervention is needed to contain the crisis.

YSP Suspends House of Deputies Membership

EA0505200694 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] The parliamentary bloc of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] issued a statement in which it expressed its regret and resentment over the statement issued today by the House of Representatives which represented the secessionist congress and al-Islah blocs, and has no connection with the Constitution. The statement said that the House of Representatives is to be used to justify the war declared by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the motives of which hide the secessionist lenience [as heard] of the forces which rejected the convention document and the national dialogue, and instead declared the war by attacking a number of brigades in the northern governorates.

The statement said that the declaration of the war by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his military dynasty, supported by the House of Representatives, is a disaster to our people. The statement declared the boycott of the meeting of the House of Representatives and suspended the membership until it rectifies its stand.

AFP: Country in 'Civil War'

NC0505175894 Paris AFP in English 1656 GMT 5 May 94

[By Abdelrahmane Haidari]

[Text] Sanaa, May 5 (AFP)—Civil war broke out in Yemen on Thursday [5 May] between rival northern and southern forces, with warplanes bombing airports and government buildings and the president declaring a state of emergency.

France decided to evacuate its citizens from the country, which was united only four years ago and whose rival leaders from the old North and South Yemen have been in dispute since last August.

A southern air raid on Sanaa airport lit the fuse, prompting President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, a northerner, to order a 30-day state of emergency to counter "separatist" forces based in the southern port city of Aden.

The airport was closed to civilian airliners, while a northern raid on Aden airport also forced its closure.

A northern military spokesman later said all-out fighting erupted between rival troops in the seven main provinces, all on or near the border which used to divide the country at the southern tip of the Arabian peninsula.

Five southern warplanes were shot down, he said, quoted by the official news agency Saba'. Southern troops had suffered heavy losses in the clashes at Lahij, Abyan, Ta'izz, al-Bayda', Dhamar, Aden and Ibb.

There was no immediate casualty toll.

Tanks and troops patrolled the streets of the capital, as panic- buyers swamped the shops and many families packed up and headed for the countryside in trucks loaded with mattresses and boxes.

Later as night fell, more anti-aircraft fire was heard over Sanaa. The streets were totally deserted of civilians and the city was hit by an electricity black-out.

Salih and his vice president, 'Ali Salim al-Bid have been in dispute for eight months on the running of the country created when former North Yemen and the poorer, Marxist south unified on May 22, 1990.

A reconciliation accord they signed in Amman on February 20 failed to ease the tension, with al-Bid calling for decentralization and series of military, political and economic reforms.

A diplomat, contacted by telephone from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), said there had also been heavy gunfire around Salih's palace.

Southern planes bombed the government headquarters and a radio and television centre in a dawn raid, witnesses said. Anti-aircraft guns shot down one of the planes, which crashed in southern Sanaa in a black cloud of smoke.

Witnesses said northern forces were quick to take their revenge, destroying the Sanaa headquarters of al-Bid's Yemen Socalist Party, and tanks had been positioned on the rubble.

The Italian embassy next door was also damaged.

US special envoy Robert Pelletreau met Salih to express his country's support for the "unity and democracy" in Yemen, Saba' said.

The US state department on Wednesday proposed a plan for the warring factions to separate their forces, agree to halt redeployments, establish better communications and reestablish dialogue.

In Paris, the foreign ministry said France was evacuating all its nationals from Aden because of the fighting and would help any other foreigners from European Union countries.

About 60 French nationals live in Aden, the foreign ministry said, but it could not specify how many other Europeans were there or in Yemen overall.

The French government earlier ordered its forces at its major base in nearby Djibouti to prepare for the possible mass evacuation of foreigners.

In London, the Foreign Office called for the rival Yemeni chiefs to "reengage urgently a dialogue."

Britain has not ordered its people out of Yemen but said they could take advantage of the French evacuation if they wanted. The 800 Britons, most of whom work in the oil industry, should "keep their heads down."

Britain was the colonial power in Aden until quitting in 1967 after much bloodshed.

Airports in the towns of Ta'izz in the south and al-Hudaydah in the west also came under attack Thursday from southern planes but were not hit, the defence ministry said.

Clashes have also been going on since Wednesday between northern and southern units in Dhamar, about 100 kilometres (60 miles) south of Sanaa, in Aden and in Redfan in the north.

A southern unit was reportedly wiped out by northern troops in fighting overnight in Dhamar.

Tension was also running high in Abyan, to the east of Aden and in Shabwah where the majority of the country's vital oilfields are based.

Last week, fighting broke out in the town of 'Imran, north of Sanaa, killing 79 people, according to official northern figures. Other reports spoke of more than 200 dead.

Yemen's giant northern neighbour Saudi Arabia appealed Thursday for its leaders to "put the national interest" above all others and halt the escalating fighting, as Egypt joined in calls for an end to the bloodshed.

A plane carrying Arab League mediators was unable to land because of the bombing of the capital's airport, league secretary general 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said in Cairo.

The rival army forces in Yemen, which each have about 30,000 troops, have never been merged and the country has been plagued by tribal and political feuds.

Each side is supported by rival tribes, which are well-equipped and can together raise forces of about 100,000.

Fighting 'Still Raging'

NC0505173594 London MBC Television in Arabic 1702 GMT 5 May 94

[Telephone report by MBC correspondent Tawfiq Jazulit in Sanaa—live or recorded]

[Text] Political and military sources have reported to us that the fighting has extended to the areas of Ta'izz, Abyan, al-Bayda', and Aden. Also, warplanes belonging to the Yemeni Socialist Party carried out air strikes against Sanaa, Ta'izz, and al-Hudaydah, as well as the airports and vital targets in the three towns.

Fighting is still raging. Various types of air force and ground weapons are being used by the two sides. Meanwhile, calm returned to Dhamar after the surrender of the Basahib camp and the joining of its troops to the northern forces.

Seven military brigades belonging to the north are now advancing toward Aden to tighten their control on it. The MBC team is at this very moment in the Sanaa television building and southern warplanes are flying over to attack the building. Antiaircraft fire is intercepting the raiding planes.

Salih, U.S. Envoy Meet, Discuss Relations

JN0505183394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, received at his office today, Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary for Near Eastern Affairs, who conveyed to the brother president a message from the U.S. Administration dealing with bilateral relations, fields of cooperation, and issues on interest to both friendly countries, in addition to the current developments in our country.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the means of promoting bilateral relations and expanding fields of cooperation. They also discussed the situation in our country in light of the explosve military situation which was caused by the secessionist forces rebelling against the constitutional legitimacy, particularly some members the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leadership, who seek to fragment the homeland and involve the sons of our Yemeni people, their Armed Forces, and security forces, in the furnace of fighting.

The U.S. assistant secretary expressed the United States' support for unity and democracy in our country, and its concern about all the challenges facing it as a result of the crisis.

The brother Presidential Council chairman expressed his regret and deep sorrow over the regrettable events in our country as a result of the aggressive and adventurous actions by the secessionist elements of the YSP leadership which has obstinately rejected all good efforts and endeavors to contain the crisis and have caused a comprehensive military explosion.

The brother president praised the United States' stand and support for the Yemeni unity, democracy, and free economy approach. He noted that our people greatly appreciate this stand. He stressed our country's concern about promoting its relations with the United States in the interest of both friendly countries.

The brother Presidential Council chairman said that the main concern for the sons of our Yemeni people and their leadership is to build a new Yemen, the Yemen of 22 May 1990, which is based on democracy, unity, political and economic freedom, social justice, comprehensive development, respect for human rights, the planning of institutions, and the building of the state of law and order.

Attending the meeting were Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah and U.S. Ambassador in Sanaa Arthur Hughes.

Commentary: Forces Advancing To Remove 'Tumor'

JN0505192394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1724 GMT 5 May 94

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Blessed be the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy as they storm the strongholds of the apostasy and secession and destroy the ramparts of treason and treachery. Blessed be the forces of unity and the army of legitimacy, which is the shield of great, unified Yemen and the hand flying the banner of faith and honor. Having plotted, the apostate and secessionist forces have received the reward for their plotting. But the plotting of evil will hem in only the authors thereof. [Koranic verse] The gangs of apostasy and secession have betrayed the homeland, disavowed pledges, and violated agreements. Therefore, it was inescapable that they receive the wrath of the God and the people and that they receive the reward of treachery and treason from the forces of the people and the heroic army of unity.

The people and the entire world have heard the decisions and statements of the Yemeni leadership and the the Defense Ministry and General Staff Command official source. Those statements have made it clear that the renegade Socialist Party traitors are the ones who started

the fire and triggered the spark, believing that they would be safe from its fire. They thought there would be no trial or punishment, so they became blind and deaf. [Koranic verse] Therefore, they are now being blazed by the fire which they have started. The flames are devouring them and removing their corruption and germs from the body of the Yemeni homeland, the homeland of wisdom and faith.

The people who endured this gang's harmful abscess and deadly disease for a third-of-a-century, are determined to extract the abscess, remove the tumor, and to get rid of the disease. Toward this end, the faithful forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy are executing the will of the people. The good news, clear indications, and ongoing events affirm that victory will be for the people, unity, and constitutional legitimacy. The national and international stands herald a new upcoming dawn and tell the world that the treacherous clique must be encircled and that it cannot escape the people's army as it resolutely marches toward the dens of the gang, confidently digging their rotten holes and teaching them that the gang has no escape from the people's wrath, for it has sowed corruption on earth, exhausted the country, shed blood, and killed innocent souls. It has been doing so throughout its black history and bloody rule of which the Yemeni people have been afflicted. The tyranny of this parasitic gang, which has nothing to do with the Yemeni people's tenets and values, has gone far beyond any limits. Therefore, it was inevitable that it be confronted by the people, rejected by the homeland, and that it receive its retribution from God through His lovers and supporters in the army of unity, constitutional legitimacy, and the forces of unity and democracy. This is best proved by the fact that many of the elements who have been deceived for a long time have become aware of the lies of the gangs of apostasy and secession and realized the falsehood of their slogans and claims. Those national elements have joined the trench of unity and legitimacy and voluntarily surrendered to and joined the forces of the constitutional legitimacy. They declared their rejection of the gangs of apostasy and stressed their rejection of all its criminal actions. This mass capitulation and joining of our forces is taking place at all positions, axes, and governorates. This proves that the gangs of apostasy and secession have lost everything. They are exposed and have lost all the rejected, deceptive merchandise which they have been promoting among the masses throughout the past third of a century. [passage omitted]

'Sporadic' Battles Under Way

EA0505203494 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] The Central Security units in Aden City (?mounted) a (?surprise) rocket and artillery attack that was aimed at Aden international airport. That coincided with another treacherous attack launched by brigades of the Republican Guard and the Central Security against the Martyr Ba Suhayb Brigade, as well as an attack launched by units of the 2d Armored Brigade, stationed in (al-Kibsi) Camp, in Lahij Governorate against the command of the southern operational axis and the Bakil Air Base.

In the early hours of this morning, the situation was finally settled by the Central Security units and the military police in Aden Governorate, and the situation was completely controlled after large numbers of those forces joined, despite the fact that (?executive) al-Ahmar family in Sanaa tried to use them to strike at the homeland, unity, and democracy. Forces also joined the ranks of our valiant armed forces, while others surrendered. Sporadic battles are still going on with some pockets of the 2d Armored Brigade after some troops surrendered and others joined the ranks of the units of the southern operational axis.

In Dhamar, units of the Martyr Ba Suhayb Brigade managed, after waging fierce battles and rare heroisms and deluged by various combat acts, to resolutely confront and completely foil all the intensive attacks and campaigns carried out by the forces of apostasy, treason, and conspiracy. They retreated under the effect of the [word indistinct] precise strikes to rear positions. Some turned back, defeated. [passage indistinct]

In al-Dali' axis, a battalion from the Martyr 'Abbud Brigade, supported by crowds of valiant citizens from the sons of the areas, managed to stop an attack from several directions in which various types of heavy weapons, armored vehicles and artillery were used in an attempt to penetrate inside the former border areas. Our valiant forces, through the steadfastness of the masses, managed to destroy 15 tanks and other losses are not yet known. The battles are still most intensive in this area which is at present under intensive artillery shelling of villages and populated quarters. In the Mukayris axis, units of the 20th brigade are still continuing their confrontation valiantly against the attacking forces that tried to direct their strikes with various heavy weapons at Mukayris town and the neighboring villages. Heavy losses and damage were inflicted on innocent citizens and their property.

In another dangerous development of the military situation, the bloody gang of al-Ahmar family, with the aim of striking at important vital economic (?institutions) of the economic and commercial capital Aden, embarked on launching numerous air raids at Aden international airport and the power station, Aden port, the radio and tv corporation building, and the Aden refinery. However, our air defense, which is always vigilant, was lying in wait for them and shot down three hostile war planes. Those raids did not succeed in achieving their expected aims, with the exception of the travelers' lounge at Aden international airport where a number of civilians were killed and wounded as a result of this hit.

Military Situation Termed 'Grave'

NC0505191494 London MBC Television in Arabic 1810 GMT 5 May 94

[Interview with MBC correspondent Tawfiq Jazulit in Sanaa by announcer Nicole Tannuri—live]

[Text] [Jazulit] First of all, I would like to say that the MBC information team is at this very moment in the Sanaa television building, which is now the target of southern warplanes. This means that the military situation has taken a grave turn, and that the Sanaa television building is being strafed by the southern warplanes. Fighting is still raging, and we can see this very clearly.

As for the situation in Sanaa, I would say that guarded calm prevails in the capital, but the Yemeni citizens in the capital are afraid that the military situation will get worse, particularly considering the power outage and the shortage of gasoline. Official departments and businesses are closed. It is also observed that soldiers are patrolling all streets. Tanks are deployed in certain areas but not in the capital as some news agencies have reported. I personally did not see any tanks in the city center as I was leaving my hotel for the television building.

[Tannuri] Tawfiq, can you contact Aden to learn about the latest developments there?

[Jazulit] As correspondents, it is difficult to contact Aden in view of the fierce fighting raging in this area of Yemen. This also applies to any Yemeni official or citizen in Sanaa or in the northern provinces.

[Tannuri] Do you know what the latest military situation on the combat lines is?

[Jazulit] First, the southern Basahib brigade was completely destroyed following ferocious fighting that lasted until this morning.

Second, some centers of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] in Sanaa were destroyed by troops.

Third, huge military units are advancing toward south Yemen to consolidate the al-'Amaliqah positions in the Abyan area.

Fourth, the military fighting is revolving around Aden, which has been isolated from the outside world. Sanaa has dispatched additional troops to reinforce their positions in order to settle the battle in its favor.

Fifth, the two sides are now using their air power, and military observers believe that YSP forces could enjoy superiority in this field.

Sixth, the fierce fighting has spread to the various Yemeni provinces and military zones, except for Sanaa, where the sound of artillery is continuously heard.

Seventh, we still do not know if the tribes are taking part in the fighting. As you can hear now [sound of explosion in the background], it seems that fighting has erupted anew in Sanaa. But I will continue my report. According to initial information, some tribes are taking part in the ongoing bloody struggle. Observers believe that the fighting between two regular armies might change to guerrilla warfare. I must stop now because it seems that fighting has intensified [sound of explosion in the background].

Aden Radio Denies Ba Suhayb Brigade Surrender

EA0505204794 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] A responsible source at the Defense Ministry has categorically denied a broadcast by the Sanaa Television channel saying units of martyr Ba Suhayb Brigade have surrendered and that the commander of the brigade has been arrested. These are false rumors. The responsible source described this report as not only completely devoid of truth, but as coming within the framework of the psychological war launched by the media circus of the bloody gang of al-Ahmar family against the sons of our people and their valiant armed forces. The source confirmed that units of the martyr Ba Suhayb Brigade are still waging heroic battles with all their valour and daring. They are confronting with sheer bravery the multitudes of the forces of conspiracy, treachery, and treason.

The source concluded his statement, saying: If there is talk about surrender or flight, then this is occurring on the side of the forces that lie under the control of the Sanaa adventurist, secessionist clique, and in the interest [as heard] of the forces of unity, democracy, and (?refinement).

Parliament Decides To Dismiss al-Bid, Others

NC0505194094 Paris AFP in English 1935 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Sanaa, May 5 (AFP)—The Yemeni parliament decided to dismiss Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid and other southern leaders, blaming them for the outbreak of civil war on Thursday [5 May], the official news agency SABA said.

The parliament, meeting in Sanaa in the absence of southern deputies, ruled that "any action or decision taken by 'Ali Salim al- Bid or his supporters is from now on considered illegal and not binding."

Defense Minister Dismissed, To Stand Trial

JN0505204094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 May 94

["Presidential Council Decision No. 8", issued by the Presidential Office in Sanaa 5 May]

[Text] The Presidential Council today made the following decision:

Presidential Council Decision No. 8 of 1994 regarding the dismissal of Brigadier General Defense Minister

Haytham Qasim Tahir from his post and turning him over for questioning on the charge of committing a number of [word indistinct].

The chairman of the Presidential Council, after referring to the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen, and seeing that Brig. Gen. Haytham Qasim Tahir committed war crimes associated with his position, and with reference to the public interest, [word indistinct] the Presidential Council decided:

Article 1. Defense Minister Haytham Qasim Tahir shall be dismissed from his post, questioned, and put on trial in accordance with Article 111 of the Republic of Yemen's Constitution for the crimes he committed while carrying out his duties.

Article 2. This decision takes effect on the date of its release and publication in the official gazette.

Released at the Presidential office in Sanaa on 25 Dhil Qi'dah, 1414 Hejira, corresponding to 5 May, 1994.

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council

MBC Interviews Vice President al-Bid

NC0505215194 London MBC Television in Arabic 2110 GMT 5 May 94

[Telephone interview with Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, in Aden, by Ahmad Manjunah, in London "a short while ago"—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Bid] My dear, the situation in Yemen, including Aden, is sad. Aden, Sanaa, and all of Yemen have been dragged onto a path different from that chosen by the Yemeni people on 20 February. We hope that we will find our way back to the right path.

[Manjunah] Brother 'Ali, does this mean that you believe that you have arrived at a point of no return, or is there still room for a political solution?

[Al-Bid] By God, my brother, Yemen has chosen its path and will adhere to it. All the Yemenis will stand by the Pledge and Accord document, by dialogue, and by peaceful solutions. We will stand up against the gangs, the warmongers, and those who lead the Yemenis on a ruinous path. May God grant us success.

[Manjunah] The state of emergency declared recently by Sanaa—does it apply also to southern areas, or is it confined to northern areas?

[Al-Bid] We have not learned anything about this in the southern provinces. The state of emergency was declared by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on 27 April. Currently, he is following a path of partition. He is doing what he pleases and forgets or ignores the interests of Yemen and the Yemenis.

[Manjunah] How true is the news that Aden's airport and other strategic areas have been seized by northern troops?

[Al-Bid] [Words indistinct] Everything that happened today is sad for all Yemenis, all Arabs, and all people. We have been forced, like someone who is wrecking his own house, unfortunately...

[Manjunah; interrupting] Now that the military situation has reached this stage, how do you see the situation in Yemen in general?

[Al-Bid] We should listen to reason, resort to dialogue, abide by the interests of the Yemeni people and homeland, honor the Pledge and Accord document, whose legitimacy is derived from national consensus, and rid ourselves of diseases, arrogance, and the military mentality. I say to the al-Ahmar clan: Yemen is bigger than any clan and any individual. Yemen will remain long after we are all gone.

[Manjunah] Brother al-Bid, thank you very much.

[Al-Bid] Thanks.

Northern Plane Shot Down During Airport Attack

NC0605123794 Paris AFP in English 1228 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Aden, Yemen, May 6 (AFP)—A warplane was shot down as it attacked Aden Airport on Friday, officials said here.

The plane, from forces loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, a northerner, launched the raid as a French ship was evacuating foreigners from this southern port.

Al-Bid's 'Special Guards,' Others Join Northern Army

JN0605124694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] A military source has issued a statement in which it said a number of unionist officers and soldiers in units under the command of the rebel secessionist elements in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] are continuing to join the ranks of the army of unity and constitutional legitimacy. Yesterday, all the personnel of the 1st Artillery Brigade in the Yarim region and the Khurafi camp that includes the personnel of the special guards of al-Bid and the personnel of the military police battalion joined their brothers in the units of the Armed Forces, which are protecting unity and democracy, after they discovered the hellish plan of the secessionist clique that wants to disrupt the homeland.

The military source pointed out in its statement that our Air Force defenses confronted all the treacherous, hostile air raids on the capital, Sanaa, and the cities of Ta'izz, al-Hudaydah, and Ma'rib—raids that targeted vital and strategic installations in these cities in order to terrorize peaceful citizens.

The source also clarified that Colonel Jawad Muthanna, commander of the Ba Suhayb Brigade, and the brigade's staff were arrested yesterday after they sparked sedition in the city of Sanaa.

Ba Suhayb Commander Arrested

JN0605051894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] A military source at the Defense Ministry and the General Staff Command has made the following statement:

Following our previous statement on the developments of the military situation that was brought about by the secessionist and criminal gang in the Socialist Party leadership, we present to the masses of our great Yemeni people the following new facts:

Your Armed Forces and security units, which belong to all the Yemeni people and who embrace within their close ranks—who believe in God and are confident about its faith and its shining future—all the sons of the one big homeland, have remained a fortress for the entire homeland and the achievements of the 26 September and 14 October revolutions. They are now protecting, with courage, valor, and sacrifices, the most sacred achievements of the Yemeni revolution, unity, democracy, and constitutional legitimacy.

Since they are the forces of the entire Yemeni people, they know neither malice nor treacherous bloody collective liquidation. Therefore, and out of their full confidence in the honorable fate that is worthy of the human and his rights, honorable unionist officers, NCO's, and soldiers in the units that take orders from the rebellious elements in the Socialist Party continue to join the army of unity and constitutional legitimacy, confident that they will only be received with love, loyalty, and good treatment. The most recent example of this was the wise Yemeni treatment of the members of the 3d Armored Brigade. Today, all members of the 1st Artillery Brigade in (?Yalin), members of the Khurafi camp where al-Bid's personal security team is stationed, and members of the military police battalion in Sanaa joined the ranks of the army of unity and constitutional legitimacy. They joined the ranks of their brother members of the Armed Forces, the protector of unity and democracy, after they became aware of the nature of the wicked scheme of that secessionist gang that wants to fragment the homeland.

The source praised the high morale of all members of the Armed Forces and security units who are offering dear sacrifices in order to strengthen steadfastness and victory in the homeland of 22 May 1990.

In a related development, our air defense units continued their valiant and competent confrontation of the aircraft of that gang and repelled all their hostile, treacherous raids against the capital Sanaa, Ta'izz, al-Hudaydah, and Ma'rib. These raids targeted vital and strategic installations in these valiant cities and aimed at terrorizing citizens. The air defense units foiled these missions and the aggressors retreated in failure.

At a late hour yesterday, Colonel Jawad Muthanna, the commander of the Ba Suhayb Brigade, and members of the brigade staff were arrested. They had launched sedition in Dhamar and then fled, but they were caught by the hand of justice.

The source praised the masses of our great Yemeni people in the entire homeland for their courageous national stand and their siding with the Armed Forces and security units in the trench of defending unity and the homeland. After they were burned by the fire of the fabricated crisis and its pain, these masses realize that this is the decisive hour of decision between a wrong that is nearing collapse and a right that is proceeding with all confidence and competence toward clear victory, God willing.

House Removes al-Bid's 'Legitimacy'

JN0605054894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 6 May 94

[Statement issued by the Yemeni House of Representatives in Sanaa on 5 May—read by announcer]

[Text] Praise be to God the almighty. Prayers and peace be upon Muhammad, the true and honest one, and on his family and companions until the day of judgment.

O sons of the unified and great Yemeni people: The House of Representatives, while following the successive and serious events the country has been passing through since the crisis began, emphasizes it has provided repeated opportunities for genuine and true dialogue designed to extricate the country from what it is passing through, in the hope that everyone will return to his senses and place both unity and democracy above narrow-minded party considerations and calculations.

For this purpose, the House has made great efforts to prevent matters from going as far as they have today. The House has temporarily frozen some of its constitutional powers, out of its concern about unity, about its continuity, and about the unity of the House as a Constitutional establishment representing a united Yemen, in order to foil the goals of the adventurers who want nothing good for this homeland.

Now that matters have reached the point of involving the Armed Forces in the furnace of a destructive war, of bloodshed, killing, and the squandering of both the property and the capabilities of the Armed Forces—the shield of the people— as well as the sabotaging of peaceful cities, led by the capital of the state of unity, the capital of historic Yemen, the House of Representatives is now duty-bound to carry out its responsibility and fully pursue its Constitutional powers—powers the House was reluctant to use in the past.

Given all this, the House holds the secessionist clique in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leadership, led by 'Ali

Salim al-Bid, who rebelled against Constitutional legitimacy and who created the crisis, fully responsible for what has happened and what is now taking place. The House has decided to remove the legitimacy of al-Bid and his secessionist colleagues. The House regards the activities they are carrying out and the decisions they are making as illegal and says they do not represent the Republic of Yemen.

The House regards the reckless actions the secessionist elements in the YSP are carrying out as a reflection of the ailing psyche of those who do not follow the Constitution or law and who do not adhere to the results of the democracy that they used to boast about.

Having studied the measures the legitimate leadership has taken in terms of declaring a state of emergency, the House of Representatives appeals to citizens to keep calm, restrain themselves, and cooperate with legitimate authorities to confront the enemies of unity and the advocates of secession among the YSP leaders and elements.

The House appeals to all sons of the Armed Forces to rally around the legitimate leadership, implement its instructions, and stand in the trench of the forces defending unity and democracy. This is because they are duty-bound to protect funds and property and to safeguard the honor of people and the blood of the innocent.

Moreover, the House appeals to the forces of good in the YSP, who reject both war and secession, to stand with legitimacy, unity, and democracy. God is the one who grants guidance and success.

The Yemeni News Agency, SABA', has learned that the House will hold a session tomorrow morning [7 May].

Spokesman Denies Aden Power Station Raided

JN0605062194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 6 May 94

[Statement by military "source"]

[Text] A military source at the Defense Ministry and the General Staff Command has stressed that since they were established—and with the growth in their structure, resources, and abilities—the Armed Forces and security units have remained a power owned by the people and following the will of the people and their legitimate, Constitutional, legitimate institutions in order to fulfill all their sacred national missions. They are the protector and guardian of the people, their security, stability, and their sovereignty, and the first power concerned with preserving all national, developmental, and democratic achievements and gains.

They are also the people's tool that will strike with an iron fist against anyone who may be tempted to encroach on any of these gains and achievements.

Therefore, we warn against any malicious and base foolish act and any criminal, adventurous act that may seek to commit such ugly crimes, even under the pretext of fabricating exposed media lies. We refer, in particular, to the statement broadcast yesterday over Aden radio, which is still under the control of the secessionist, rebellious gang in the Socialist Party leadership. The statement falsely claimed that our valiant air forces—the protector of the skies of the dear Yemeni homeland and its blessed ground—yesterday attacked the thermal power station in Aden, as well as other selected targets, such as the radio and television stations, and other vital and strategic installations that belong to the people and are a source of fortune and public interest and which should be protected by every Yemeni individual.

But, what can we say to those who do not differentiate between their rancorous lies, their crimes against the people and the people's achievements, and their own sick aspirations? Our people must know the truth about what may have happened to these installations at the hands of the malicious people themselves in their drive toward the abyss of fabricating excuses to commit crimes of sabotage, destruction, and damage.

The falsehood, lies, and deceptive claims contained in that statement are not worthy of any consideration or response on our part. This will be confirmed by facts and evidence about other lies and deceptive claims.

'Traitor' al-Bid To Face 'Severest Punishment'

JN0605063894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] A responsible source has stated the following:

Despite the patience we have demonstrated and the concessions we have made out of our concern to preserve unity and democracy and the country's safety and security, and despite the signing of the Pledge and Accord document in the Jordanian capital, Amman, two and one- half months ago—a document whose signing was supposed to end the crisis and to signal the beginning of its implementation—the secessionist gang in the leadership of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], led by war criminal al-Bid and his secessionist gang, which is rebelling against Constitutional legitimacy, has insisted on continuing the crisis it created, refusing to even appear before the House of Representatives to take the Constitutional oath. This gang has prevented the convening of official institutions within Constitutional legitimacy and went so far as to start a series of painful and bloody clashes between the comrades-in-arms of the Yemeni people. This began with the attack on the al-'Amaliqah forces in Abyan, besieging the citizens in Mudiyah, creating sedition in the (Harth Sifiyan), and intentional provocations in Shabwah and Dhamar, and finally starting the horrible and disastrous fighting between the Third and First Armored Brigades at the 'Imran military camp.

The secessionist gang in the YSP leadership was not satisfied with creating these disasters and tragedies, perhaps because this gang has not yet lost hope of

carrying out its suspect and evil plot. This gang has brought the military situation to this degree of seriousness in total disregard of the possible threats to the country. Its blind hatred has covered everything in the country, including the land and the people, and the state and its achievements. The gang started an all-out war on the evening of the sad and gory Wednesday in all parts of Yemen. This began at 2005 with an attack against the Presidential Guard battalion in Dhamar and the siege and attack with all kinds of weapons against the Central security detachment in Aden. The same night, they carried out a comprehensive attack against the units of the 2d Armored Brigade in the al-Rahah area in the Lahij Governorate, and sent the Air Force to strike vital and strategic targets in Sanaa, al-Hudaydah, and Ta'izz.

Thus, the YSP tyrants, led by the traitor al-Bid and his secessionist, criminal gang, have indulged their hatred to its utmost by attacking the people, the homeland, unity, and democracy, prompted by the grotesque megalomania of their secretary general, al-Bid. This is a flagrant rebellion against Constitutional legitimacy and high treason to the homeland and humanity. Thus, the people will never forgive them. They will bear the curse of God and history. They will face the severest punishment. Their final fate will be the darkness of their graves.

As for the heroes of the Armed and Security Forces, the protectors of unity and democracy, they will be held high by the support of our struggling people in the epic of pride and glory. With their chaste blood and sacred sacrifices, they are writing bright pages of decisive victory for the homeland, the people, unity, democracy, justice, and prosperity, God willing.

If you will help the cause of Allah, he will help you and plant your feet firmly. [Koranic verse]

Former President Urges Arab Leaders To Help

PM0605112294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 May 94 p 1

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "'Ali Nasir Tells AL-HAYAH: Two 'Ali's Should Go If They Fail To Solve Problems"]

[Text] Damascus—Former Yemeni President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad has urged President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid to "leave" power "if they fail to solve the problems." He pointed out that the solution to the problem lies in the implementation of the Pledge and Accord Document signed in Amman, which "stipulated the establishment of a federation between the two parts of Yemen." He also warned of the possible partition of Yemen into "regions, not just two parts."

In a statement to AL-HAYAH 'Ali Nasir said that yesterday he phoned a number of Arab leaders and Yemenis "to contain the crisis and halt the political and military collapse taking place, and to return to the negotiating table and dialogue, because the alternative to dialogue is collapse and ruin." He denied he had made direct contacts with foreign leaders. "The contacts were made via Arab channels." However, he did not name the Arab or foreign leaders with whom he made contacts.

He said: "I cannot say that the fighting will lead to the collapse of unity. It is a wound in the body of national and Yemeni unity. It will take a long time for this wound to heal." He added: "If current developments turn into civil war, Yemen could turn into more than one state or an entity divided into regions." He stressed that he personally is "against infighting and separation. There is no future for Yemen except under unity. The leadership is the problem. Everyone is blaming unity for the problems, when unity has nothing to do with them. They talk in the name of the (Pledge and Accord) Document, unity, and the revolution, but their practices have nothing to do with these things or with democracy. Their actions are based on their narrow personal interests."

Concerning a way out of the current crisis, the former South Yemen president said: "I stress the need to conduct a dialogue and merge institutions. If they (Yemeni leaders) fail to solve the problem and extricate Yemen from the current crisis, it is better for them to depart and safeguard their history and the achievement they have made."

He noted that he contacted President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih the day before yesterday evening, but he could not speak to 'Ali Salim al-Bid because telephone lines to Aden are cut off. He also contacted Yasin Nu'man, chairman of the Socialist Party secretariat, and Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad, Abyan governor and member of the Socialist Party Political Bureau, two days ago.

'Ali Nasir commended the U.S. position on the current crisis, saying the Americans "are for safeguarding unity and democracy. They urge modernizing the building of the state and stability in Yemen and the region, and I support this. If unity is in their interests, it is in our interests too."

He stressed the need to implement the Pledge and Accord Document. He said that "many of its stipulations still have not been implemented, even though it enjoyed a national, Arab, popular, and international consensus." On his opinion of the federation question as a solution and a way out of the current crisis, he said that the document stipulates "the establishment of a federation. But regrettably, it has not been implemented. Nor has the Constitution been applied or the document implemented. Its essence should be implemented. What I am interested in is to safeguard unity; the other things are details."

On the possibility of his return to Yemen he said that, "if this question is raised, I am willing to play any role to contribute to finding a way out of the crisis, but not for the sake of power or a post." He avoided "holding anyone responsible. Everyone is responsible. The issue is not who started it all, but, rather, the devastating effects we are experiencing."

Public Gatherings Banned; Curfew Initiated

JN0605064394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 May 94

[Statement issued by Ministry of Interior in Sanaa; date not given]

[Text] A security source at the Ministry of Interior has explained that the provisions of Presidential Decree No. 20 for 1994 on declaring a state of emergency in the country have nothing to do with banning the manifestations of normal daily life in the capital and other cities in the Republic. Various daily activities as well as commercial and production activities are taking place normally.

The source said a state of emergency was declared in the country in view of the need to entrench security and stability and to safeguard citizens' security and safety in this crucial phase the country is passing through. Thus, the Ministry of Interior appeals to the brother citizens to observe the following:

1. Not to carry weapons throughout the Republic's governorates, even if their carriage is licensed, and also not to open fire regardless of justification.
2. Not to hold any meetings, gatherings, crowds, demonstrations, or similar things.
3. Not to carry out any acts aimed at looting or encroaching on public and private properties.
4. To refrain from moving inside the capitals of the governorates from 2100 to 0500.

The ministry hopes all brother citizens will abide by what is mentioned above and cooperate with the security organizations to achieve the public interest and entrench the homeland's security and stability in general.

President Husayn Dismisses Intelligence Chief

LD0505222794 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Iraqi opposition sources in Salah al-Din in northern Iraq have said that the head of the ruling regime in Baghdad has dismissed Sabir 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Duri, the director of his intelligence services, after the exposure of the culprits in the assassination of the Iraqi dissident Shaykh Talib Suhayl al-Tamimi in Beirut, and the involvement of the Iraqi regime's intelligence services in the killing of German journalist Lissy Schmidt in northern Iraq early last month.

Land Dispute Leads to Clashes; Parties Appeal for Calm

PM0505110094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 May 94 pp1, 4

[Report by 'Adnan Husayn: "Clashes in Northern Iraq Between Barzani's and Talabani's Fighters"]

[Text] London—A dispute over land ownership in the area of Qal'at Dizah north of the Iraqi Kurdish city of al-Sulaymaniyah has led to clashes between gunmen of the two main Kurdish parties, namely the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], led by Mas'ud Barzani, and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], led by Jalal Talabani. The battles extended to cities and villages in three of the four Kurdish governorates.

Sources of the two parties agree that the fighting, which started on 1 May, stopped yesterday, leaving an unspecified number of casualties, both dead and wounded.

The two parties' sources, contacted by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday, said that the leaderships of the two parties and figures from other Kurdish parties and Iraqi Arab opposition parties succeeded in stopping the fighting which had started in the Qal'at Dizah area near the border with Iran in the wake of a tribal dispute over land ownership between individuals with split political loyalties to the two parties. Relations between the two parties have been characterized by rivalry and sensitivity, and at the end of last year they formed a joint command to avoid armed clashes between them and to coordinate their supervision of the local government which they formed and in which they shared influence for the past two years.

Statements issued by the two parties yesterday said that clashes occurred between their peshmerga forces in the main cities of al-Sulaymaniyah and Dahuk and also in the city of Raniyah in the extreme east and in Zakho in the extreme west near the border with Turkey.

The European branch of the KDP distributed an appeal for an end to the fighting by its leader Barzani the night before last. It said: "Despite the very serious aggressions against our party in Qal'at Dizah, Raniyah, and al-Sulaymaniyah in recent days, as the future of our Kurdish people faces a most serious threat, and to prevent any further appalling tragedies, I call on all parties to remain calm and to stop the fighting immediately." He also called for a meeting of the Kurdistan Front which is an alliance of Kurdish parties, in existence since 1988. That meeting was supposed to take place yesterday.

According to sources from both sides, the political bureaus of the two parties held a joint meeting in Barzani's presence but in the absence of Talabani, who is in Italy. They issued a joint appeal to their forces and supporters calling for the immediate cessation of fighting, the release of the detainees from both sides, and the return of the gunmen to their bases and camps. But a statement issued by the PUK said that the fighting spread to Dahuk and Zakho after that appeal was made. The PUK statement urged forces of both sides "to stop the military operations immediately and not to allow any new eruptions."

Kurdistan Front Issues Statement

JN0505113294 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 May 94

[Statement issued by the Political Leadership of the Kurdistan Front "at the headquarters of the Political Bureau of the Kurdistan Democratic Party" on 4 May—read by announcer]

[Text] At the invitation of brother struggler Mas'ud Barzani, leader of our Kurdistan Democratic Party, the Kurdistan Front held an emergency meeting at the headquarters of the Political Bureau of our party in the summer resort of Salah-al-Din this afternoon, 4 May. The meeting was attended by representatives from all parties in the Kurdistan Front in order to address the recent complicated circumstances and infighting, which threaten all our people's achievements in this phase.

Following a fraternal dialogue held with a spirit of tolerance and a sense of responsibility, the conferees unanimously made the following decisions:

1. Halting the infighting immediately at 1800, summer time, today in the areas where fighting is taking place.
2. Ending the phenomenon of carrying arms as soon as possible.
3. Returning everything to the same situation prior to 2 May 1994.
4. Preserving all government organs in the region of Kurdistan in addition to the parliament.
5. Condemning any side that violates the implementation of the paragraphs of these decisions by the Kurdistan Front's leadership as well as penalizing this side by its own political party.
6. All parties condemn these tragic events, and demand that these practices should not recur and should be prohibited.
7. Addressing any future problem or issue through dialogue and discussions.

We call on all political and national parties as well as the honorable citizens to abide by these decisions and maintain security and calm.

[Signed] The Political Leadership of the Kurdistan Front

[Dated] 4 May 1994

DPK, PUK Agree To Joint Committee

JN0505182494 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] The two political bureaus [not further identified] today held a joint meeting at Salah-al-Din resort under the supervision of brother Mas'ud Barzani [leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan—DPK]. The following points were approved during the meeting:

1. To form a joint committee between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] and the DPK in al-Sulaymaniyah, Karkuk, and Qal'at Dizah, and Raniyah to end fighting and its effects there.
2. To send a joint committee with similar form and authority to Dahuk, Zakho, al-'Amadiyah, 'Aqrah, and all parts of (Shahbinan) to carry out the duties mentioned in the first paragraph.
3. To exchange all detainees.
4. Both sides should return each others offices.
5. To return each other's properties, machines, and equipment as soon as possible and without delay.
6. To account for troop concentration and prevent the mobilization of any new troops against each other.
7. To remove all manifestations of fighting through the media. Both sides are responsible for disseminating information in a fraternal, peaceful, and harmonious spirit.
8. To leave no room for any statements or words without approval from central authorities.

Baghdad Radio Notes Events

JN0505121094 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Reports from Irbil have said that large-scale armed clashes erupted in the past three days between Mas'ud Barzani's group and Jalal Talabani's group. The clashes began in the districts of Raniyah and Qal'at Dizah. Both parties used various kinds of weapons, and many people were killed or wounded on both sides. A number of innocent citizens were killed, and their houses were demolished.

Fighting extended to the city of al-Sulaymaniyah, killing or wounding many people. The situation in al-Sulaymaniyah resembles a state of curfew. Detachments from both sides erected control points on most roads in and outside al-Sulaymaniyah. Many residents of al-Sulaymaniyah left their homes and fled to adjacent areas in the belief that they are more secure.

In the Dahuk governorate, Mas'ud Barzani's group occupied the headquarters of Jalal Talabani's group in all towns in Dahuk, Zakho, al-'Imadiyah, and 'Aqrah, detaining their residents and impounding their weapons.

In the governorate of Irbil, both sides yesterday exchanged fire in Shaqlawah, the district of al-Siddiq, and Hajj 'Umran. People who fled the area said that despite the calls made by the cliques of saboteurs to halt fighting, there is still continuous shooting between the two sides. The leaders of saboteurs failed to address the situation, which was coupled with cuts in the electric power and drinking water as well as burglaries and looting of citizens' homes and properties.

PUK Forces Capture Several Towns

LD0505180894 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] After recent clashes between the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] of Iraq and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], which resulted in many casualties among the forces of the two sides and the innocent people of the region, and despite the agreements between the officials of the two mentioned parties to refrain from attacking each other's offices, today the PUK forces, led by Jalal Talebani, captured the towns of Shaqlawah, (Panjbeyn), and Chamchamal.

On the other hand, many Barezani tribesmen, affiliated to the KDP, led by Mas'ud Barezani—under the name of Barezan Corps—cleared the town of Salah ad Din from the PUK and captured the PUK television station that covered the area.

AL-THAWRAH on Economic Devlopments in Turkey

JN0605104294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 6 May 94

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 6 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said that if Mrs. Tansu Ciller's government fulfills its promises to Turkish merchants to reopen border posts in order to carry out trade with Iraq, this will be a decisive development in favor of sound Iraqi-Turkish relations.

In an article today, AL-THAWRAH, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, expresses confidence that fulfilling the promises made by Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Murat Karayalcin would be positively and quickly reflected in various sectors of the Turkish economy, which has been suffering from serious defects and obstacles since the blockade was imposed on Iraq in 1990. [passage omitted]

AL-THAWRAH says that if Mrs. Ciller's government fulfills its promise to reopen the al-Khabur border post, then the way will be open for the Turkish economy to acquire the same privileges attained during the prosperous trade exchanges with Iraq. These exchanges used to refresh not only Turkish areas adjacent to Iraq but all of Turkey as well. This was achieved by pumping Iraqi oil into Turkish markets and promoting trade and economic activities along the path of the oil pipeline, in addition to supporting the Turkish lira, expanding the scope for businesses, and establishing dozens of joint Iraqi-Turkish ventures and firms.

114 Hebron International Observers Arrive

TA0505192194 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Dozens of international observers slated to enter Hebron next Sunday [8 May] arrived in Israel today. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that out of the 160 members of the force, 114 observers from Norway, Denmark, and Italy arrived today. They brought their special uniforms, and will use rented white Fiats bearing special identification marks. Some of the observers will start the overlapping and briefing process in Jerusalem and Hebron this weekend.

1,000 Palestinian Prisoners Released

TA0505171794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Some 1,000 Palestinian prisoners were today released from Israeli detention facilities. Most of them were freed from the prison at Qezi'ot in the northern Negev. According to an Army spokesman, the prison in Gaza is now completely empty.

Beilin on Christopher's Mediation, Accord With PLO

TA0505171594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin says American Secretary of State Warren Christopher will return to the region in the middle of the month, because he is convinced peace can be achieved between Israel and Syria. Beilin told reporters in Tel Aviv that Christopher received a detailed Israeli proposal representing official thinking on the nature of the settlement. He had received the Syrian reply, which was very different from Israel's proposal, but was sufficiently detailed to envisage a common denominator between the two sides, he said. Beilin also said there was no serious prospect of development between Israel and Syria without American intervention.

Referring to the agreement with the PLO, Beilin stressed 'Arafat's biggest test would be the manner of the entry of the Palestinian police and 'Arafat's ability to stand up to the opposition against him. Israel would not agree to any PLO agreement with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] enabling Hamas to operate outside the autonomy, because it would be a violation of the agreement.

'Sources' in Washington on Christopher's Role

TA0605054494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Sources in Washington believe that U.S. Secretary of State Christopher's willingness to mediate between Israel and Syria practically ends the previous modus operandi for negotiations in Washington between December 1991 and the Hebron massacre [in February 1994].

An Israeli source in Washington has said that, in the peace package offered to Syria, Israel did not promise a full withdrawal, nor did it offer a withdrawal from Majdal Shams first. The terms the Syrians used in their reaction to the Israeli proposal contained more concrete terms than in the past regarding the definition of peace and normalization. The Syrians have gone from using general terms such as demilitarization to using numbers, according to the source.

Ambassador to UN Views Israeli-PLO Accord

LD0505132194 London ITV Television Network in English 1800 GMT 4 May 94

[Interview with Gad Yaacobi, ambassador to the United Nations, in New York, by correspondent Jon Snow, in London; from the "Channel 4 news"—live]

[Text] [Snow] Ambassador, do you see this accord today as the beginning or the end.

[Yaacobi] Yes, it is the beginning of the end of a process which may lead towards reconciliation and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. But it is not a time for celebrations, it is a time for realization of the implementation of the agreement. And the Palestinians are facing the main challenge—to be in charge of their lives and the municipal and civilian affairs of their people in the territories.

[Snow] Do you think you've done it soon enough for the PLO to be those Palestinians in charge?

[Yaacobi] Yes, I believe that we did it in a very accelerated way. Within three weeks the implementation will be over and at that time the Palestinians will take over and I believe that this will be perhaps the end of the conflict between the two peoples that has lasted for 100 years in general, but for the last 27 years, since the six-day war.

[Snow] Now, two other very important ingredients to the global Middle East peace—Jordan and Syria—have both said that this accord will not lead to a wider peace in the Middle East. They've both condemned it.

[Yaacobi] I am sorry to hear it because I think that Jordan supported the whole move for a very long period of time. One day after the Declaration of Principles was signed in Washington DC, Israel signed with Jordan the agenda for peace which included a mutual agreed agenda to make progress toward a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel. But I agree with those who think that this is not enough. First of all, we have to implement this agreement, and the main task is that of the Palestinians.

Secondly, we have to conclude positively the negotiations between Israel-Syria, Israel-Lebanon, and Israel-Jordan. And we know very well that Syria is a key state in the whole peace process in the Middle East. And

following a peace treaty between Israel and Syria—I believe that it is the only option that the two states are having—then of course other states and neighboring Arab countries will join the peace process with Israel and hopefully it will be within the next year.

[Snow] Well, sitting where you are in New York, briefly do you see the Syrians actually concluding something within in the next year?

[Yaacobi] We would like to see them doing it, because we believe that this is the only way that the Syrians can achieve their goals, which means having back some of the territory of the Golan Heights, doing peace with Israel, developing resources from the conflict into the economy and the society, and communication and housing, and the same is relevant to Israel. We are willing to build a new Middle East and a new future for our people. This is what the whole story is about.

[Snow] Ambassador, thank you very much.

Opposition Leaders View Signing of Cairo Agreement

TA0505155894 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 May 94 p A7

[Report by parliamentary correspondent Gid'on Alon and ITIM]

[Excerpts] In reaction to the Israel-PLO accord signed in Cairo, representatives of all the opposition factions yesterday decided to submit a bill to disband the Knesset and hold new elections within 100 days. [passage omitted]

Some time before the Israeli-PLO signing ceremony in Cairo, opposition faction leaders held a special news conference, at which they sharply attacked the government. Knesset Member [MK] Binyamin Netanyahu, chairman of the Likud, said this was a dark day for the state and one of the lowest points in the history of Zionism. "In an hour, Rabin will be able to declare that he has founded the Palestinian terrorist state in Cairo," Netanyahu said. He maintained that the government has kept none of the pledges it had made on the eve of the Knesset elections: not to negotiate with the PLO and not to permit the establishment of a Palestinian state. He stressed that this government did not have a popular majority, just as it did not have a mandate to give up the Golan Heights. According to him, the government was carried by a tiny majority of PLO supporters in the Knesset, and during its term in office, the citizens' personal safety had suffered unprecedented deterioration.

Netanyahu noted that it was the opinion of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] elements that rather than decline, the scope of terrorist activities would rise in the near future. He added that terrorist organizations might mutually agree to carry out attacks in new locations, and that their Gaza and Jericho squads might carry out attacks on Israeli territory.

The Likud chairman stressed that the opposition factions had decided to launch an extensive public campaign against the creeping withdrawal and against the terrorist state's expansion up to the outskirts of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. "We want to prevent this cancer from spreading and to put an end to this inept government's fraudulence. We plan to stage demonstrations and protest vigils, and to obtain the signatures of 500,000 citizens in support of the call for early elections," Netanyahu said. He voiced his confidence that the opposition factions' public struggle would be crowned with success, thereby relegating the present government into history as a passing episode; and that idea of a Palestinian state would fail, because the government was incapable of uprooting 120,000 Israeli settlers in Judaea and Samaria. [passage omitted]

Later in the day, opposition leaders reacted to the ceremony at which the Israel-PLO accord was signed.

Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said that "Rabin's series of concessions ended at a public degradation ceremony. Suffice it to see with whom Rabin signed the agreement to understand the nature of the agreement and the nature of the government that signed it."

MK Refa'el Eytan, the Tzomet chairman, said: "In Cairo, Rabin signed orders launching Israel's second war of independence, a war sure to be ferocious. The faltering that accompanied the signing proves that the unknown far exceeds the known. If the agreement is not stopped in time, it will lead to a Palestinian state whose final goal is the annihilation of the State of Israel." MK Eytan added that like the other opposition factions, Tzomet demands that the Knesset be dispersed and new elections held within 100 days.

MK Zvulun Hammer, the National Religious Party leader, said: "The prospects offered by this agreement are not on par with the vast risk that national security will be endangered and with the damage caused by a profound national rift." He asserted that a Palestinian state was being served on a platter to the same terrorist organizations that made merry with the blood of our sons and daughters, while a majority of the nation are hurting and sorrowful, apprehensive and distrustful, feeling completely insecure and unsafe as a result of the blurred facts and vague reality painted by the government.

Commenting on the agreement, MK Rehav'am Ze'evi, chairman of the Moledet movement, said: "Acting as if we were the ones who lost wars, the Israeli prime minister today signed the writ of surrender to the head of the PLO gang. This day will be remembered in our national history as a dark day, a landmark on the Jewish state's way to perdition and voluntary suicide. Yet we have not lost hope, and we will be again lords of this land

when this government of coercion and annihilation is defunct and we become a free nation in our own country."

"This is a dark day, a day of humiliating surrender to our enemies and murderers, a day on which a mistake for which we will have to pay with blood was made," former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said yesterday afternoon. "What they did today is worthless, without any value; it wastes time and strengthens our enemies, whom we could have defeated by now," MK Shamir added.

IDF To Pursue 'Ordinary' Operations in Territories

TA0605113994 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 6 May 94 p 3

[Report by David Regev]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Great concern over the PLO request to delay the transfer of powers was voiced yesterday by members of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] top echelons. Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, the chief of staff, has recently stated in a cabinet meeting that a delay in the IDF withdrawal from the Strip is liable to provoke radical elements, who realize they have nothing to lose, to carry out terrorist attacks against IDF targets. A senior officer said yesterday: "On the one hand, we must start cooperating with the Palestinian police, and on the other, to pursue antiterror activities."

The chief of staff and the Central Command commander have instructed IDF commanders to pursue their ordinary operational activities. And indeed, a long series of operational activities was carried out during the past week, including the capture of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad fugitives, searches of Palestinian homes, patrols, and ambushes. [passage omitted]

Four Palestinians, 1 Israeli Injured in West Bank

TA0505110294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Four Palestinians were lightly wounded by Army gunfire when they stoned Israeli vehicles in the village of Halhul near Hebron.

In Tulkarm, an Israeli civilian was lightly injured when his car was pelted with rocks.

Incidents in Hebron, Jericho Reported

TA0605043394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Two Molotov cocktails were thrown last night at a bus close to the village of Biddiya on the Trans-Samaria highway. No one was hurt and there was no damage. South of Hebron, another firebomb was tossed at a bus. Again, no one was hurt.

A Qol Yisra'el reporter says throughout the day there were disturbances in the Hebron, Jericho, and Tulkarm areas. Soldiers used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse stone throwers.

The center of Hebron was open yesterday to commerce and trade.

Rallies Against Cairo Peace Agreement Held

TA0505145994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 May 94 p A6

[Report by Daniyel Aviv, Shlomo Dror, and ITIM]

[Excerpts] Rallies against the peace agreement signed in Cairo were yesterday held in Ashdod, Jerusalem, Qiryat Mal'akhi, and the Valleys District.

Dozens of right-wing supporters gathered in the early morning hours in the Ashdod junction and blocked traffic. The demonstrators carried placards denouncing the peace process, set tires on fire, and some stoned cars driven by territories residents on their way to work in Israel. Massive police troops were summoned to the junction, and three demonstrators were taken in for questioning. [passage omitted]

Terror victims' relatives staged a demonstration opposite the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem yesterday afternoon. The police made sure that the demonstrators stayed on the sidewalk near the prime minister's residence, and the protest ended in relative quiet.

Another demonstration was held near the Hebrew University on Giv'at Ram last night. Several dozen demonstrators carried torches and placards denouncing the agreement; two tires were burned. One of the demonstrators, who had probably set the tires on fire, was detained by policemen.

No unusual events were reported yesterday in East Jerusalem, with the exception of a partially observed commercial strike. Beefed up police deployed throughout East and West Jerusalem all day yesterday to deal with disturbances.

About 1,000 inhabitants of Qiryat Mal'akhi and the adjoining towns yesterday rallied in the Qastina junction at the approach to Qiryat Mal'akhi protesting the government plan to permit Palestinian traffic from Gaza to Jericho to cross through Qiryat Mal'akhi. [passage omitted]

Other rallies protesting the agreement were yesterday held in the Golani, Tzemah, Bet She'an, and Habiq'a junctions. The rallies were organized by Golan Heights settlers. Some 50 people gathered in the Golani junction and attempted to set tires on fire and block traffic. The police prevented the demonstrators from blocking traffic in all the junctions.

[Reporting on page A6 of the same issue of HA'ARETZ, Amnon Yosef adds: "Hundreds of settlers from the Qatif

Bloc and northern Gaza Strip settlements yesterday participated in a rally at the Neve Deqalim settlement, protesting the agreement with the PLO. In all the Qatif Bloc settlements, schools remained closed and settlers did not go out to work."]

Rabin Stand on Disbanding Settlements Faulted

TA0605133994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 May 94 p B1

[Commentary by Dan Margalit: "Self-Made Impasse"]

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin has chosen the wrong way to defend the wise agreement he made with Yasir 'Arafat. In a television appearance, he ridiculed Menahem Begin, saying that his ceremony at Camp David was not marred by an incident like that orchestrated by 'Arafat in Cairo because Begin gave everything to Anwar al-Sadat, whereas Rabin was not so generous toward 'Arafat.

Why should Begin be derided? Faced with giving in to U.S. pressure and going for the chance of peace with Egypt on one hand, or caving in to the rage of the settlers and extreme right-wing demonstrations in the territories on the other, Begin decided to uproot the Sinai settlements, and this was a reasonable decision.

Rabin already knows that the establishment of the Qatif Bloc was an act of political madness on the part of former Labor leaders. He would prefer it to be abandoned, because the presence of the settlers in the Gaza Strip increases unnecessary friction in this test period of neighborly relations between the two nations. The prime minister, however, still lacks the courage to tell the settlers that the refrain "do not uproot what has been planted" is only a prayer and not an expression of hard political reality.

It is true that it is hard for any Zionist to uproot trees or fences. But this myth must not blind us to reality: Even during the period that all Israeli ideologues like to invoke nostalgically, settlements were dismantled on the Golan and in the Galilee. Ze'ev Jabotinsky, the spiritual father of all right-wing ideologues, opposed the establishment of Tel Hay [a settlement in upper Galilee stormed by Arab attackers in 1920]; Yosef Trumpeldor had to die before Jabotinsky adopted his name for his own newly formed youth movement [BETAR, Brit Yosef Trumpeldor].

There is a serious contradiction in Rabin's attitude toward this issue. On one hand, he had the courage to tell the United Kibbutz Movement that in exchange for peace with Syria, he will disband settlements on the Golan; on the other, he refuses to explain why this logic should not apply to the Gaza Strip as well.

If it is possible to disband Merom Golan, it should also be possible to relocate Kfar Darom. Were it not for Rabin's obsessive stubbornness, which prevents him from relocating any settlements even a few meters away, many issues could have been solved without planting an explosive device right in the middle of the festive Cairo ceremony. The maps with the problematic attached signatures are, to a large extent, the result of a settlement concept that forced the two sides to put the solution of the problems off to a later stage. Have we forgotten the Taba affair, which placed so many obstacles on the path of Israeli-Arab diplomacy, before being solved with a clear victory for the Egyptians?

Rabin's adamant refusal to soften his position regarding some of the settlements raises serious doubts about his confidence in his ability to insist on issues he really considers paramount—perhaps even that of the 'Etzyon Bloc, which he considers absolutely vital. The prime minister is afraid that he will not be able to keep this bloc of settlements intact. As a result, he is entangling himself in a self-made impasse regarding all the settlements, both the vital and the insignificant ones.

Rabin's adamant position regarding the settlements has hurt the Oslo and Cairo agreements, because it is a mistake to leave a large Jewish population in the Gaza Strip under physical and psychological conditions that are a breeding ground for Jewish terrorism. It is also a mistake to insist on leaving Na'ama in its present location, because this makes it difficult for Israel to evince even modest generosity regarding the size of the Jericho autonomous area.

The stubborn decision to keep these settlements in their present location fails to placate the turbulent right wing in any event. The right wing considers the Gaza-Jericho agreement "the beginning of the Palestinian people's redemption," and if this is indeed the case, it is regrettable that the government is denying instead of confirming it. Does Shim'on Peres really reject the establishment of a Palestinian state in the Gaza Strip with a federative link to the West Bank and Jordan?

I believe it is high time the government admitted this reality. All the ministers, however, refuse to acknowledge this possibility. This will force them to again fall back on Peres' fertile imagination to produce another original and helpful—albeit partial—solution. It is reasonable to assume that in the near future, Peres and 'Arafat will raise the possibility of a mini- interim arrangement in the framework of which another city and town will be transferred to Palestinian authority every three months. Qalqilyah, Janin, Nabulus, and Qabatiyah, and another year will have passed.

'Arafat Arrives on Short Working Visit

JN0505155094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] His Excellency Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman this evening on a short working visit. He was received upon arrival by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali.

Immediately after his arrival, 'Arafat went to the Royal Hashemite Court to hold talks with His Majesty King Husayn.

Meets With King

JN0505173594 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and the delegation accompanying him at the Royal Hashemite Court today. His Highness Crown Prince Hasan attended the meeting.

At the outset of the meeting, President 'Arafat extended, in his own name and on behalf of the Palestinian leadership, condolences to His Majesty King Husayn and the esteemed Hashemite family on the death of Queen Mother Zayn al-Sharaf.

President 'Arafat also briefed his majesty on the latest developments in the negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides, and what has been reached in the Cairo agreement. He expressed the Palestinian leadership's appreciation for Jordan's role, particularly His Majesty King Husayn's efforts, in supporting and backing the Palestinian people.

His Majesty King Husayn reiterated Jordan's firm support for the Palestinian rights and the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He also stressed Jordan's concern about supporting the kinsfolk in the occupied territories, and about alleviating their suffering.

Attending the meeting for Jordan were Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, the prime minister, al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, Marwan al-Qasim, political adviser to his majesty the king, and Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs. On the Palestinian side were Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Yasir 'Amr, Salim al-Za'nun, father Iliya Khuri, and the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

Japanese Foreign Minister Kakizawa Arrives

Notes Purpose of Visit

JN0505143794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Japanese Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa and his accompanying delegation arrived in Amman today on a two-day visit to the country; they came via the King Husayn Bridge. During the visit, Kakizawa will meet with a number of senior officials.

In statements to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, Kakizawa said that Japan considers Jordan an important party to the peace process in the region. He added that the purpose of his visit to Jordan is to discuss the situation in the region, in general, and the possibility of Japan's participation in the peace process.

He was received by Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, the head of the bridge security detachment, and the Japanese ambassador in Amman.

Kakizawa Meets King, Pledges Aid

JN0605101094 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 May 94

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn today received Japanese Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa, who is currently on a visit to Jordan. The meeting was attended by Crown Prince Hasan.

The two sides exchanged views on various regional and international issues of common interest as well as the friendly bilateral relations. The Japanese foreign minister expressed his government's appreciation for the role played by Jordan, especially by his Majesty King Husayn, to realize a just and permanent peace in the region, affirming Japan's support for efforts exerted in this regard.

The Japanese foreign minister emphasized to his majesty the Japanese government's concern about strengthening and promoting the fraternal bilateral relations and offering every possible assistance to Jordan, especially in the field of economics and development, in order to contribute toward establishing security and stability in this region, which is passing through a phase of very critical and important developments. [passage omitted]

Kakizawa Tours Jericho

OW0505233994 Tokyo KYODO in English 2305 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Amman, May 5 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa toured the West Bank town of Jericho on Thursday [5 May], a day after he attended the signing ceremony in Cairo of a historic agreement on limited Palestinian self-rule for Gaza and Jericho.

He visited a local hospital in Jericho to which Japan has offered to supply medical equipment. Kakizawa visited Jericho before arriving in Amman, where he paid a courtesy call on King Husayn and conferred with other Jordanian leaders.

Kakizawa is visiting Jordan during a tour of the Middle East which has already taken him to Egypt and Israel.

Al-Majali Meets Japanese Counterpart

OW0605015994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0137 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Amman, May 6 KYODO—Jordanian Prime Minister and Foreign MInister al-Majali said in talks Thursday [5 May] with Japan's Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa that Jordan will cooperate with the Middle East peace process. Majali, meeting Kakizawa for an hour and a half in Amman, described the recent peaceful developments as a "new era" in the peace process, Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leader Yasir 'Arafat on Wednesday signed a historic agreement on limited Palestinian self-rule for Gaza and Jericho. Majali said Jordan is taking the basic line that it will comprehensively negotiate with Israel over bilateral disputes including border and water feuds, the officials said.

The West Bank, including Jericho, had been under Jordan's jurisdiction, but was occupied by Israel in 1967 and Amman renounced its sovereignty there in 1988.

Majali reiterated Amman's support for Japan's bid to gain permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council, the officials said.

Kakizawa pledged to al-Majali that Japan will grant a 13.14 billion yen loan to Jordan to help finance energy programs, after a lapse of three years since Tokyo granted a 700 million yen loan, they said. The Japanese minister exchang

d a memorandum with Jordanian Planning Minister Ziyad Fariz about Japan's grant in aid worth 400 million yen to help increase Jordan's food production, they said.

Kakizawa also visited Jordanian King Husayn, who said Jordan should negotiate with Israel over the West Bank in light of the signing of the self-rule accord, the officials said. Earlier in the day, Kakizawa visited the West Bank town of Jericho, a day after he attended the signing ceremony in Cairo of a historic agreement on limited Palestinian self-rule for Gaza and Jericho. He visited a local hospital in Jericho to which Japan has offered to supply medical equipment. Kakizawa is visiting Jordan during a tour of the Middle East which has already taken him to Egypt and Israel.

Joint Committee With Egypt Starts Meetings

JN0505121794 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] The Higher Jordanian-Egyptian Committee has begun its two-day meetings at the prime minister's office in Amman today. Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and his Egyptian counterpart are cochairing the talks.

Issues on the agenda of the joint committee include bolstering bilateral relations in the economic, trade, cultural, and scientific fields.

Over the past two days, a preparatory committee, branched off the higher committee, held a series of meetings at the Ministry of Planning.

King, Sidqi View Relations

JN0505194394 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husyan and His Highness Crown Prince Hasan received Egyptian Prime Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and his delegation today. Dr. Sidqi extended his condolences to his majesty and the Jordanian family over the death of Her Majesty the late Queen Mother Zayn. They then discussed developments in the peace process and stressed the urgency for policy coordination among the Arabs to further the cause of a just and comprehensive and lasting peace in the region. They also underscored the need to coordinate economic policies, given the changes sweeping the region, particularly in the economic area. Under such circumstances, Arabs must exchange views in all areas to advance economic and social conditions and, by extension, regional peace and stability. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Royal Court Chief al- Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, and the Jordanian-Egyptian ministerial committee members.

His majesty gave a statement to the Egyptian media team, visiting with Dr. Sidqi:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] How does your majesty see future cooperation with Egypt?

[Husayn] There is a wide scope for that. I was happy to learn about the subjects that the joint committee addressed. I think the two sides are determined to further our cooperation and integration. I am impressed by the resolve the parties have shown to attain our joint objectives for our common good.

[Correspondent] How does your majesty feel about recent developments, particularly with reference to the peace process?

[Husayn] Our position is clear and has been so since 1974. We recognized the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arabs. Thanks be to God, the PLO is doing its job advancing the objectives of our Palestinian brothers and in this effort it has our full support. We hope the recent developments will before long yield positive results and advance the rights of the Palestinians on their national soil.

[Correspondent] Are you in touch with President Mubarak over the Jordanian-Israeli track?

[Husayn] Our coordination to advance the cause of a just and comprehensive peace that future generations can live with is ongoing. I hope we will have further meetings

in Amman and in Egypt, our second homeland, so that we may work together for the good of our people.

[Correspondent] What kind of contribution will Jordan make to the consolidation of the self-rule authority?

[Husayn] We are doing what we can to help our kinsfolk and brothers. Of course, Jordan is in a special position in terms of its association with the cause and the kinsfolk. Also what is going on will have an impact on Jordan. I think that the same largely holds true for Egypt. President 'Arafat is visiting us today; we hope to find out what we can do to help out. [end recording]

Dr. 'Atif Sidqi spoke to our political affairs correspondent:

[Begin Sidqi recording] This is not the first time that I have met with his majesty the king. His majesty is a first-rate statesman in global, as well as in regional terms. I am impressed by his astuteness, experience, and familiarity with the ins and outs of Arab and world issues. We talked at length about regional developments and the peace process. He is as firmly committed as we are in Egypt to the peace process. We look forward to that process yielding out benefits for all the states of the region. We also discussed bilateral relations, which, thank God, are good, even though it is some time since the joint committee last convened. However, work had not really stopped as we noted at today's committee meeting. His majesty pronounced himself fully satisfied with the relations between Egypt and Jordan and the committee's work. He urged that we keep up the work to further these relations. [end recording]

Paper Views Committee Meetings

JN0605085194 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 6 May 94 pp 1, 27

[Editorial: "Developing a Fruitful Cooperation Away From Slogans"]

[Text] Amidst the blizzard of the tempestuous political events in our region these days, an important event like the resumption of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Committee meetings seems like a peaceful island in a turbulent sea. This picture is strengthened by the fact that the meetings are being held in Amman away from slogans, fancy promises, and pan-Arab programs. Instead, these meetings are discussing and studying economic, trade, scientific, and cultural issues, including the establishment of joint ventures between the two fraternal countries, in an atmosphere of seriousness and close examination out of the limelight.

In fact, this kind of bilateral Arab cooperation, which touches various parts of the economic and trade life, is not receiving enough attention by Arab observers. It has always been the practice, and our life is governed by practices, to hail only political developments, without paying any attention to events and developments that affect Arab citizens' daily life, despite the fact that any meaningful political changes or developments have economic contexts that affect the lives of Arab citizens.

Within this context, the resumption of the Joint Jordanian- Egyptian Committee meetings following a five-year hiatus is truly an important development in relations between the two fraternal countries and in inter-Arab affairs. Such a development will naturally have a political impact resulting in further rapprochement, cooperation, and coordination between Amman and Cairo.

Although these meetings focused their discussion and study on economic, trade, scientific, and cultural cooperation issues, political issues were not absent. This was made clear yesterday in the two lengthy speeches by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al- Majali and Jordan's great guest, Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. The two speeches were marked with an objective view of the Arab nation's reality and a sincere desire to overcome the state of fragmentation, end differences, and direct greater attention to the ties of bilateral cooperation between the various Arab countries.

Although it is clear that both Jordan and Egypt are facing difficult challenges and economic and political pressures here and there, that reality in particular provides the motive to develop bilateral ties, taking inspiration from the mutual interest of the leaders of the two countries, His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, to bolster these ties within the context of mutual respect and to develop the existing opportunities of cooperation and to explore further opportunities.

Interior Minister Leaves for Turkey

JN0605135394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Interior Minister Salamah Hammad left Amman this afternoon for Ankara on an official visit to the Republic of Turkey. He will hold talks with Turkish Interior Minister Nahit Mentese. Hammad is also expected to sign a cooperation agreement between the two governments on various security fields, including combating drugs.

Al-Hirawi, Other Leaders Return From Damascus

NC0505173694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber Speaker Nabih Birri, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz have returned to Beirut from Damascus, where an expanded Lebanese-Syrian summit was held. Two rounds of talks were held, interrupted by a working luncheon. A meeting is now under way between President al-Hirawi and Prime Minister al-Hariri at the B'abda Palace. Speaker Birri left the palace a few minutes ago.

Al-Hirawi Receives Clinton, Christopher Messages

NC0505194394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi received a thank-you message from U.S. President Bill Clinton for the message of condolences that the Lebanese president sent him on the death of former President Richard Nixon. Before he left for the Syrian capital this morning, President al-Hirawi also received a message from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. In this message, Secretary Christopher voices his regret for not being able to visit Lebanon and explains the reasons. Christopher adds that the United States is continuing to promote peace, as it promised to do.

Al-Hirawi, Syrian Culture Minister Meet

NC0605092494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] At 1000 today President Ilyas al-Hirawi received Syrian Minister of Culture Najah al-'Attar at the Presidential Palace in B'abda. Also attending the meeting were Michel Iddih, minister of culture and higher education, and Nasri Khuri, secretary general of the Higher Lebanese-Syrian Council. Discussions focused on the Lebanese-Syrian cooperation agreement on higher education and scientific research which was signed in Damascus yesterday.

Minister on Media Law, Christopher Visit

NC0505190494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 May 94

[Excerpt] Information Minister Michel Samahah has said that the media law will be passed in the next few weeks. In a wide-ranging interview with the United Arab Emirates newspaper AL-KHALIJ, which will appear tomorrow, Samahah discussed the upcoming regional tour by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, security issues and government concerns in Lebanon, and various other issues.

Samahah said that Christopher's tour is neither a positive nor a negative development insofar as negotiations are concerned. What matters to us, Samahah added, is UN Security Council Resolution 425, the implementation of which would pave the way for our wider participation in the general Arab talks involving Resolutions 242 and 338.

The information minister added that Lebanon will see Christopher's tour as significant if the latter were to bring with him something new that calls for direct communication with the Lebanese Government, such as information concerning Resolution 425, its mechanism, and the timetable for its implementation. Otherwise, Lebanon will see nothing new in Christopher's tour.

Samahah said that once Israel commits itself to withdrawal beyond the international borders, Lebanon will be ready to discuss arrangements concerning the withdrawal phase, deployment of the Lebanese Army, and control of the occupied territories. The information minister added that the illegitimate presence in the south will have to withdraw with the Israeli withdrawal.

Concerning the media, Samahah said that the television and radio law will not be late in coming and is expected to be passed within the next few weeks. He said that the law will guarantee freedom of thought and expression and the public's access to information. In return for which, there are obligations that the law will address. The media should not be used to foment sectarian hatred or undermine the unity of homeland and its national symbols.

Samahah called on the media to return to being the Fourth Estate. The media, he said, should be free from political and financial manipulation. [passage omitted]

Local Television To Air Syrian Newscasts

NC0505164794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Speaking at a news conference today, Ghalib Qandil, director of al-Mashriq Television, said that al-Mashriq will transmit to Lebanon the Syrian Arab Television Network's newscasts and joint [mushtarakah] political programs, particularly those bearing upon Lebanese-Syrian ties.

Al-Asad Urges Yemen's Leaders To Preserve Unity

JN0605081794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has held two telephone conversations with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his deputy 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

Talks during the two conversations dealt with the situation in Yemen and the ongoing battles on Yemeni territory. President Hafiz al-Asad stressed Syria's pressing desire that all parties should work to halt the ongoing battles and resort to dialogue stemming from concern about the safety of Yemeni citizens in a way that will preserve Yemen's national unity.

Al-Hirawi Departs After Talks With al-Asad

JN0505193594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] At 1145 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz.

Attending the meeting were Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

The talks dealt with a host of issues and regional and Arab developments, particularly the peace process, developments in its tracks, and current contacts in this regard.

The Lebanese officials were briefed on the contents of the talks U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher held in Damascus, and on the Syrian position which adheres to a just and comprehensive peace in all tracks.

The two sides stressed the importance of coordination and cooperation among the Arab parties to the peace process, and of their adherence to the objective set for this process.

The talks also dealt with issues of interest to both Syria and Lebanon.

A working lunch was also held.

Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi returned to Beirut today. Also returning with him were Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz.

Russia To Write Off Debts in Exchange for Arms Deal

PM0505111294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 May 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Jalal al-Mashtah: "Russia Agrees To Write Off 80 Percent of Syria's Debts"]

[Text] Moscow—AL-HAYAH learned yesterday that Moscow has agreed to write off 80-90 percent of the debts Damascus owes to it. Gulf states will pay the remaining sums, provided that $500 million worth of Russian military equipment is purchased and paid for in cash.

A source close to the premiership office told AL-HAYAH that an agreement to this effect was reached during the recent visit to Damascus by Oleg Soskovets, first deputy prime minister and head of the military-industrial complex in Russia.

AL-HAYAH has learned that the agreement, whose details have not been revealed, stipulates Russia's agreement to write off 80-90 percent of the debts accumulating from previous contracts with the Soviet Union and then Russia. These debts are estimated at more than $10 billion. Two Gulf states are expected to pay the remaining sum, which it is believed will be transferred to the Central Bank of Russia, which will finance the purchase of Syrian commodities to be exported to Russia as a means of paying the debts.

It has also been learned that the agreement provides for the purchase of military equipment worth $500 million to be paid to Russia in cash. Moscow considered this step "a new chapter" in relations between the two countries. Details of the military agreement have not been revealed. However, it is understood that Moscow "took account" of concerns conveyed to President Boris Yeltsin by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who urged the Russians not to sell to Damascus aircraft the Israelis regard as "a disruption of the security balance."

It is also understood that the Russians pledged not to implement previous contracts, especially with regard to exporting spare parts for weapons the former Soviet Union had supplied to the Syrians.

A Russian expert familiar with details of the agreement stressed that it could cause "embarrassment" for Moscow when dealing with other indebted countries. He mentioned in particular Iraq, Libya, and Yemen. He said that these countries could demand a similar treatment and the writing off of part of their debts, which he estimated at about $20 billion.

Radio Criticizes Palestinian-Israeli Agreement

JN0505174694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 May 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] A state of anxiety and mourning has spread throughout the occupied Arab territories and a state of rejection prevailed for the signing of the agreement implementing the Gaza-Jericho accord. Cities, villages, and townships in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip witnessed a complete closure as a sign of rejection of the plans to liquidate the Palestinian people's cause and squander their legitimate national political rights. All

this shows that the Cairo agreement does not express this people's will and does not fulfill their national and pan-Arab aspirations.

This agreement has come as a natural result of the Oslo agreement which stipulates the perpetuation of the occupation, and Israel maintaining its control over the occupied Arab territories.

There is no doubt that the agreement to implement the autonomy rule that Rabin and 'Arafat signed in Cairo yesterday will have many complications, dangers, and harmful dimensions for the Palestinian people and their cause, and will have complex ramifications not only on the state of affairs in the occupied Arab territories but also on the state of affairs in the entire region. In addition to the fact that the self-rule agreement does not give the Palestinians any prerogatives or responsibilities in the fields of defense, foreign affairs, and political affairs, it also makes the Palestinians dutybound to protect the security of the Israeli settlers and others. It also gives the Israelis the final say in deciding who who enters and leaves the self-rule territories, stipulates that the Israeli army will keep its complete control on the settlements, and that instead of withdrawing, the Israeli forces will redeploy and control roads, bridges, and passageways.

Looking at all this, one realizes that this agreement does not in any way whatsoever constitute a step on the road to peace but further complicates the peace process and saves Israel from a burden under which it nearly collapsed in view of the escalation of the intifadah. Many Israeli officials admit that the signing of the self-rule agreement has guaranteed a partner for Israel and for its security and that a security alliance has been established between the PLO and Israel to confront and terminate the intifadah.

By firmly and angrily rejecting the self-rule agreement, the Palestinian people reaffirm that they will never give up the goals for which they launched their intifadah against the occupation to completely eliminate it from their occupied territories. This is because they realize that any partial solutions, phased settlements, or partial deals cannot but be in the interest of Israel and its occupation and not in the interest of their national rights and that of rergaining them.

All indications show that the wrath which spread throughout the occupied Arab territories while 'Arafat was signing the agreement is the best proof that Israel has dragged the Palestinian party into potentially dire consequences and to more concessions which first started with the Oslo agreement, continued to be made over a period of seven months, and finally resulted in a flimsy agreement that is not in the interest of the peace process, that gave Israel many gains, particularly in the security field, and that transformed the Palestinian police force into tools to protect the occupation and the settlements.

We in Syria want just and comprehensive peace and have never accepted and will never accept separate and amputated solutions. We cooperated and will cooperate for the sake of such a peace. Only a just and comprehensive solution will bring about a viable peace that will be accepted by the people, that will last, and that will safeguard the dignity and interests of all the parties.

Decrees on Salary, Benefits Increases Issued

JN3004192494

[Editorial Report] Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic at 1852 GMT on 30 April, 1994, in a two and one-half minute report during its regularly scheduled newscast, says Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has issued three decrees under which certain employees and retirees will receive pay and benefits increases effective 1 May, 1994.

The first decree lists individuals in the following categories as eligible for a 30 percent pay increase: Civil servants and military personnel, public sector employees, and employees of municipalities, local governments, sequestered firms, private schools, and the mixed sector.

Under the second decree, selected military and civilian retirees receiving social security benefits will receive a 15 percent increase.

The third measure decrees an increase in the heating allowance by 125 Syrian lira, increasing it to 520 lira per month.

Afghanistan

Golboddin-Dostum Militia Fires 250 Rockets on Kabul

LD0505174694 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Last night, Golboddin-Dostam militia fired 250 rockets and mortar shells into the residential areas of Kabul. According to a source of Kabul City Garrison Command, as a result of the rocket attack, three residents of Kabul were martyred and six others were injured. Similarly as a result of the last night's rocket attack, a dwelling was destroyed, and a number of shops were damaged in the city center. The source added that today too, Golboddin-Dostam militia fired rockets into some areas of Kabul. No report about the loss of life and material damage has been received.

Rabbani-Gilani Rift Widens With Minister Recall

94P50137A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 May 94 p 8

[Report by Ahmad Muwaf faq Zaydan]

[Excerpt] Peshawar—Informed Afghan sources told AL-HAYAH yesterday that a deepseated difference of opinion had broken out between President Borhanoddin Rabbani and his foreign minister, Hedayat Amin Arsala, after the latter refused to respond to presidential instructions that recalled him to Kabul on 21 March. The foreign minister visited the Central Asian republics last week on what Rabbani described as "a personal visit that does not represent the state."

This difference of opinion resulted from statements made by Seyyed Ahmad Gilani, the leader of the Mahaz-e Melli-ye Eslami [National Islamic Front], to which Arsala belongs. Gilani, in his statements, criticized Rabbani's steps to extend his administration, which ends in June according to the Islamabad agreement and the Mecca pact between the mojahedin groups.

The relationship between Rabbani and Gilani became more tepid after the latter received a delegation of the coordination council opposed to Rabbani's rule in light of news about attempts by the opposition side to convince Gilani to join its ranks.

The opposition, led by Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar, seized the opportunity at rapprochement with Gilani after the president's steps to dismiss the Afghan ambassador in Islamabad, Dr. Mohammad Roshan. It is well known that Roshan also belongs to Gilani's front.

Sadeq Tashkari, the Afghan president's aide, told AL-HAYAH that Engineer Mokhtar is the ambassador's charge d'affaires. However, Roshan has not left the embassy and has refused to answer Rabbani's demand for his recall to Kabul in order to appoint him to the post of director of consular affairs in the Foreign Ministry. The opinion of observers is that if Gilani secedes from the Rabbani alliance, the latter may suffer a major blow since it would not leave anyone in his alliance other than the Ettehad-e Eslami led by 'Abd-Rabb Rasul Sayyaf, with some remaining neutral and the rest in the ranks of the opposition.

Mas'ud Khalili, one of the commanders of the Jam'iat-e Eslami (led by President Rabbani) who lives in Kabul, comment on the subject. He told journalists, "This is a strange situation. It is up to the Gilani group to define its position. Is it still in the alliance or has it left?" Khalili did not comment on whether Kabul had appointed a new foreign minister or not.

In addition, artillery battles continued between the opposition and government forces in the Afghan capital yesterday in which 70 people were wounded. [passage omitted]

India

Editorial Questions U.S. 'Special 301' Threat

BK0505113394 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 4 May 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Superfluous 301"]

[Text] There are many reasons behind the U.S. decision to give India a two-month reprieve from the U.S. "Special" 301 trade sword. One reason, perhaps, is the proposed Washington visit by Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao. The subject of the Washington talks is going to be the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty]; the imposition of Special 301 on the eve of these talks would have been an unnecessary diplomatic irritant. In addition, India and the United States hold divergent views on a number of issues. Questions about political-strategic issues are more serious than trade questions. All of this is going to be discussed by Prime Minister Narasimha Rao and President Clinton. Therefore, it is impossible to understand why the U.S. Commerce Department brandished the Special 301 sword. Agreed, the previous two-month reprieve has just ended. Meanwhile, the official GATT accord has been confirmed, and India has signed it. The GATT preamble answers all the questions the U.S. Congress cited in proposing the Special 301 act. India's acceptance of the GATT's Dunkel draft should satisfy the U.S. Administration, and it should be thinking about ending Special 301. To the contrary, however, the United States has threatened to bring India under the purview of Special 301.

It seems that India must face Special 301 again because of China. China is going to become a GATT member; it has already applied. China had made an issue of the delay in approving its application. Until China joins the GATT agreement, the U.S. will continue to threaten it over U.S. patent and copyright issues. China and India are in the same category on the U.S. list. Therefore, India is being warned time and again because of China. Perhaps it is because of China that the U.S. Congress is

not thinking about revoking Special 301, despite the GATT signing. China, India, and Argentina are the countries currently being threatened with Special 301. India and Argentina have already signed the GATT agreement. As a result, they must make changes in their patent and copyright laws in accordance with this agreement. GATT has allocated enough time for this. The United States is applying psychological pressure on them to enact new laws quickly by giving two months' warning. If India ignores this, nothing is going to happen. India should not care about Special 301 anymore. After all, why should the United States be accepted as a godfather in place of the new multilateral trade organization? All patent and copyright issues are now the concern of the new trade organization. How can the United States become a godfather in bilateral trade when a multilateral trade system is being launched? Perhaps the U.S. Administration refrained from applying Special 301 because it has a proper understanding of this perspective, and the Indian Government did not waste any time reacting to it.

Islamabad Radio Reports 18 Killed in Kashmir Clashes

BK0605061394 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, clashes between the freedom fighters and Indian troops continue in various parts of the valley in which 18 more people have been killed. The clashes occurred in Pulwama, Punch, Baramula, (Dandarbal), Srinagar, and Ghazipura- Hindwara. A total strike was observed in Pulwama and adjoining rural areas as a protest against the killing of five people by Indian troops in (Guddu) village. The people in Nagabal also observed a strike against Indian atrocities. Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir Trade Union Front has called a strike on 7 and 9 May as a protest against the violation of human rights by the occupation forces.

Iranian Envoy Summoned About Remarks on Kashmir

BK0505131194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] India has conveyed its disappointment at the Iranian ambassador's statement after his visit to Jammu and Kashmir. The ambassador, Mr. (Reza Sheikh Akhtar), was summoned to the foreign office in New Delhi to convey India's reaction to his statement. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi that it was not the Jammu and Kashmir government which put any hurdle but the Hurriyat Conference leaders themselves in arranging a meeting with the Iranian ambassador. He said the European troika ambassadors and others, who visited the state, appreciated India's transparent policy on Kashmir and their reaction was positive.

Vice President To Lead Team at South Africa Ceremony

BK0605054794 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] In South Africa, the African National Congress continues its sweep in the recently held elections. The party has secured 65 percent votes which is 1.7 percent less than a two-thirds majority. The ruling National Party has polled 20.6 percent votes, while the Zulu-dominated Inkatha Freedom Party has secured 8.1 percent. As the celebration party which began on Last Friday [29 April] still continues, the formal election of Dr. Nelson Mandela as the next president has been postponed to Monday. The postponement is due to the delay in counting of votes. About 100 world leaders are expected to attend the installation of Dr. Mandela as the first Black president of South Africa. The Indian delegation to the installation ceremony will be led by the vice president, Mr. K.R. Narayanan. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khurshid, spoke to our correspondent Prabhat Dabral on the changing scenario in South Africa.

[Begin Khurshid recording] I think that tremendous... [pauses] I think it opens up vast new field of economic activity for Indian entrepreneurs and Indian traders. It really virtually opens up the Indian Ocean. We were too far from many destinations because we didn't have a major trading partner on the tip of Africa. Now we have. If we exploit this potential, if we work together in partnership, a whole new opportunity opens up not just in Africa itself, but beyond Africa [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Iran

Commentary Links U.S. to Claims of Iran-IRA Ties

LD0505223194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 2015 GMT 5 May 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] In the wake of the recent baseless accusations raised by the British mass media concerning the Islamic Republic of Iran's material and moral support for the Irish Republican Army, the IRA, and implicit conformation of these baseless allegations by some British officials, once again Tehran-London relations have been pushed to the brink of a difficult political crisis. Resolution of this crisis is not predictable owing to British leaders' lack of political independence. [passage omitted]

From the viewpoint of domestic and foreign experts the critical situation prevalent in Britain is closely linked with London's fresh charge against the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is also construed as a preplanned political and propaganda offensive in order to divert the attention of

the people of Britain from the failures suffered by its Conservative government in its domestic and foreign policies. [passage omitted]

Albert Reynolds, the president of the Irish Republic, too, in implicitly dismissing the British Government claim on alleged cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the IRA, has pointed out that so far no firm documents or evidence have been presented to him concerning such cooperation.

This statement of the Irish president, and also a clear-cut assertion by the Irish Foreign Ministry spokesman to the effect that Ireland is continuing its efforts to boost economic ties and also a current trend on understanding and exchange between Tehran and Dublin and that Ireland is not inclined at all to undermine this reciprocal understanding, all point to just one thing. They show the reality that British statesmen have failed in a new round of their efforts to pressure Iran. Hence they must, once again, face the undesirable result of their counselling with the U.S. policies against the Islamic revolution.

In a reference to the U.S. Administration's reaction to Britain's baseless claim on Iran's alleged cooperation with the IRA would clearly show the collusion between Washington and London. [sentence as heard] Last week, or few days before the start of this fresh clamor by the government of John Major, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher paid a visit to London, and when this political and propaganda offensive was initiated by Britain against Iran the head of the U.S. diplomacy was in Cairo. While in the Egyptian capital, Christopher, just moments after the assertion of this British claim against Iran, and even quicker than the procedure prevalent in diplomatic norms, said the issue shows that Iran must remain isolated and not get any share of economic aid from the West. This posturing was very controversial in the opinion of many analysts and experts in political affairs. It added to the notion that Christopher, prior to the start of this abortive offensive, had been briefed on the matter in the course of his British visit and had already made the necessary coordinations with the British leaders. [passage omitted] At any rate, in respect of the fact that the recent British claim against Iran points to London's political defeat in Northern Ireland, it also brings to memory yet another reality. Britain under the U.S. pressure has repeatedly acted against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and on each occasion has experienced the unfavorable outcome of this conflict more than any other country. Undoubtedly, this time too, it will gain nothing.

Early last autumn Douglas Hurd, British foreign secretary, prior to meeting with Iran's foreign minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, on the sidelines of the 48th UN General Assembly session had said: The agenda of my talks with Dr. Velayati will be difficult. Now, apparently, Mr. Hurd should respond to this question as to why the agenda of talks between Tehran and other political representatives of European capitals has never been that difficult. The response is quite evident. In the event, British statesmen, while disregarding the U.S. pressures, reassess their stands concerning bilateral ties and view the existing issues realistically. They will not find any major obstacle on the way of the expansion of Tehran-London relations. If this does not happen, then the vicious circle will continue indefinitely.

Yazdi Sermon Condemns 'Compromising Accord'

LD0605104994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] During the Tehran Friday prayers—prayers held simultaneously throughout the country with the participation of masses of worshippers at Friday prayer venues—Ayatollah Yazdi, Tehran's interim Friday prayer imam, referred to the anniversary of the martyrdom of the worthy scholar and jurisconsult Ayatollah Motahhari and, honoring the memory of that martyr, described the specific traits of tha character of the great martyr Mortaza Motahhari. He said that an understanding of the times and its exigencies as well as action on the basis of that understanding are among the outstanding traits of that martyred personality, scholar Motahhari.

Praising the approval of a bill on general and revolutionary courts by the Islamic Consultative Majles, Yazdi described the special aspects of that bill. Continuing his sermons, he described the British allegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for the IRA as a false claim. He added: As the person responsible for the state judiciary system I call on British statesmen to put forward any evidence they may have.

Tehran's interim Friday prayer imam also condemned the compromising accord concluded with the Zionist regime by 'Arafat. He stressed: Such an accord cannot trample on the indisputable rights of a nation. He added: 'Arafat is not the Palestinian nation and cannot embark on any action in the name of the Palestinian nation. He added: We are certain that the combatant and honorable Palestinian nation, especially the intifadah, will not remain silent in the face of that compromise and will continue its struggle till it achieves its indisputable right.

Ayatollah Yazdi also offered his congratulations for the victory of the people of South Africa against the racist South African regime. He described it as the fall of racism.

Criticizing the silence of the international forums with regard to the Gorazde issue, Tehran's interim Friday imam added: The behavior of the United Nations and the Security Council regarding that issue has dealt the strongest blow to the credibility of that organization. Referring to the support and assistance given by the people of our country to the Bosnian people, he expressed the hope for that assistance to continue.

Commentary Reacts to Israeli-PLO Agreement

NC0505111694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[Text] The agreement on the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho accord was signed yesterday while the combatant Palestinian groups expressed their opposition to it. With the signing of this accord, which defines the manner of implementing a limited autonomy for the Palestinians in Jericho and the Gaza Strip, the Israeli forces will withdraw from these areas and delegate their control to Palestinian policemen.

After the Arab-Israeli war in 1967, these areas were occupied by the Zionist forces. The signatories of the Gaza-Jericho accord and their main supporters are seeking to magnify the importance of the signing of the accord as an end to the Middle East crisis and a solution to the Palestine issue.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who is in the Middle East to consolidate the process of compromise and was present at the signing of the document on the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho accord, lauded it as a historic accord. He added that it indicates that the two sides are in favor of putting the era of war and violence behind them, which engulfed the area for many years.

'Arafat described this accord as an infrastructure for peace in the region, and the Zionist regime's prime minister said it would pave the way for peace. The combatant Palestinian groups proclaimed a day of mourning and a general strike and declared today a black day. They have openly displayed their opposition to the Gaza-Jericho accord and have stressed the continuation of their struggle until the vindication of the true rights of the Palestinians.

The factor that has motivated the authors of the Gaza-Jericho accord to view it as a means to put the Middle East conflict behind them is that they believe that by propounding a limited autonomy plan in this region they have catered to the Palestinian wishes for an independent government and have doused their fervor for a Palestinian homeland.

The Islamic nature of the Palestinian territories is a strong reality that has retained its luster despite the years of occupation and the homelessness of its citizens and efforts to destroy their identity. On the basis of this reality, the establishment of an independent government, which should reflect this identity, is a historical demand of the Palestinians that must be achieved or struggles will continue.

In view of this irrefutable reality, the formulators of this compromise have attempted to delegate a small segment of the Palestinian homeland with limited autonomy to placate the people of Palestine and the world. It remains to be seen whether the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho accord can bring about peace and compromise between the Zionist regime and the Palestinian people.

The Palestinians seek the establishment of a government that protects and upholds all Palestinian characteristics, embraces the entire Palestinian population, encompasses the entire historical Palestinian homeland, and enjoys complete and comprehensive sovereignty. The autonomy propounded on the basis of the compromise between 'Arafat and the Zionist regime does not have any of these characteristics. This will result in opposition by a large section of the Palestinian population. The declaration of opposition by the Palestinian groups and a general strike by the intifadah commanders on the day the document for the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho accord was signed is eloquent testimony of this fact.

On the other hand, in light of the expansionist nature of the Zionist regime, one can say that it does not even consider itself obligated to abide by the limited agreements in the accord signed. The killings of Muslim worshipers in the al-Khalil [Hebron] mosque proved that this regime, along with those participating in the talks, constantly gives vent to its savage nature so that it can restrict the Palestinian Muslims even more. The massacre of Muslims by the Zionists took place when this regime constantly referred to the Palestinian people's struggles as extremist actions that disrupt the so-called peace process. The Zionist regime calls on the obsequious leaders of the compromise to rein in these actions.

Thus, it may be said that despite the signing of the compromising accord the Zionist regime ignores it whenever it deems fit so that it can attain its expansionist objectives. What is obvious is that the Palestinian issue can only be resolved when a government that reflects the Palestinian identity of the people of these territories is established with complete integrity and the holy land of Jerusalem is liberated completely from the occupation by the Zionist usurpers. Otherwise, the Palestinian nation and the Islamic world will not relinquish their demands and the defeat of plans such as the Gaza-Jericho accord, which was established on unstable foundations, will be imminent.

Velayati To Visit Bosnia, Open Embassy

LD0505211594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati will head for Bosnia-Herzegovina on May 7 to meet and confer with the Bosnian officials and open the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Sarajevo. Latest developments as well as mutual relations will be discussed in the trip. President of the Iranian Red Crescent Society and a number of Islamic Consultative Assembly are accompanying Dr. Velayati on his trip to Bosnia.

Ties With South Africa To Be Established 10 May

LD0605105194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran and South Africa will establish diplomatic relations.

According to a Central News Unit report, following talks between the South African Foreign Ministry and the Islamic Republic of Iran's Interests Section in Johannesburg, the two countries have decided to establish diplomatic relations on 10 May 1994.

Antinarcotics Agreement Signed With Pakistan, UN

President Receives Visiting Officials

LD0505125594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Pakistan's Interior Minister Nasrullah Khan Babar and Giacomelli, the UN executive under secretary-general and chairman of the Anti-Narcotics Committee, were received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today.

At the meeting the president expressed his pleasure with the consultation, cooperation, and joint efforts of Iran and Pakistan in combatting the cursed phenomenon of narcotics on the common border and in the region. He also described as very positive the UN's support for the successful implementation of joint measures.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the fact that over the past few years the Islamic Republic of Iran has been in the vanguard of the fight against contraband narcotics in the region. He stressed that the comprehensive fight against the big international narcotics gangs, which have advanced facilities and equipment, requires the cooperation and coordinated joint effort of all neighboring countries.

The president said that the venomous propaganda by certain Western media, and even some institutes affiliated to the United Nations about Iran's efforts to fight the merchants of death stems from the infiltration of the world's propaganda centers by big international narcotics smuggling gangs. He said: While Iran is combatting the merchants of death in the region at great expense, certain so-called human rights institutions, with the help of their influential propaganda centers, paint Iran's humanitarian efforts with the same brush as their own political prejudices and describe the execution of narcotics smugglers as the execution of political dissidents and a contravention of human rights. He said: Iran will not deviate from its chosen path despite these allegations. Iran's law enforcement and military personnel will fight this cursed phenomenon with decisiveness and will support the actions of other countries in the matter.

At the meeting, the UN executive under secretary-general and chairman of the Anti-Narcotics Committee expressed his pleasure at Iran's progress in the fight against narcotics. He said: In our inspection of the common border between Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, I and the team accompanying me saw the diligent efforts of Iran's law enforcement forces to combat the narcotics smugglers. We will place at the UN's disposal comprehensive information on those humanitarian efforts.

He added: Iran's efforts in the matter should not only be praised by international forums but it should be presented to the rest of the world as a model.

Supporting the joint efforts of Iran and Pakistan to combat narcotics smuggling, he said: There is no doubt that fighting this cursed global phenomenon, which causes murder, corrupts youngsters, and pollutes the environment requires all-round international effort. All other countries, particularly regional countries, must use Iran's and Pakistan's joint efforts as a model and continue their efforts to combat narcotics jointly and comprehensively.

Later in the meeting, which was also attended by Interior Minister Besharati and a number of our country's law enforcement officials, the Pakistani interior minister thanked the Iranian authorities for their efforts in the fight against narcotics smuggling. He described his talks with his Iranian counterpart as very fruitful, and added: We hope that with the measures taken to safeguard the common border the fight against narcotics and the merchants of death will be continued even more seriously in the future.

Signatories Vow Closer Cooperation

LD0505193094 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Under UN supervision Iran and Pakistan will intensify their operations against drug smuggling, according to a memorandum of understanding signed today at the end of tripartite talks between the ministers of interior of Iran and Pakistan, Besharati and Nasirullah, as well as Giorgio Giacomelli, deputy UN secretary general.

The new cooperation will cost more than $30 million and will include efforts by the two countries in identifying smugglers and insurgents in the border areas and in cities.

Following the talks and the signing of the memorandum of understanding, Interior Minister Besharati said future cooperation between Iran and Pakistan was a step toward serving the people as well as world peace. He said:

[Begin Besharati recording] According to this memorandum of understanding, the potential of the two countries and that of the United Nations will be used in the struggle against drugs, be it in identifying the merchants of death, preventing their entrance, increasing the punishment for persons carrying drugs into the country, greater cooperation in controlling the borders, strengthening the border posts or the ever increasing control of drugs to prevent their entry into our country. [end recording]

Finance Minister on Economic Issues, Taxation

LD0505162694 Tehran IRNA in English 1513 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 5, IRNA—Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, Morteza Mohammad-Khan said on Thursday that the share of taxes in the Gross National Product (GNP) was five percent.

Addressing a group of Finance Ministry director generals from throughout the country, Mohammad-Khan said it was necessary that simpler methods be adopted for collection of taxes.

He said that in the past calendar year, 1372 (March 1993-March 1994) the Finance Ministry had collected rls. 4,000 billion in direct and indirect taxes and that the figure was expected to reach rls. 7,800 billion this year.

Mohammad-Khan said in the past year taxes made up one-sixth of the country's budget, adding that the ratio would rise to one fifth this year.

Since the country's revenue is provided through oil export, borrowing from domestic and foreign banks and collecting taxes from high income people was the best form of economic adjustment plan. He said that in the course of the 1988-94 economic development plan, non-oil exports had an eye-catching rise so much so that it reached dlrs four billion last year.

The emphasis put by the first economic development plan on production instead of import served to reduce the country's imports from 15 million tons in 1988 to five million tons annually at present, he said.

The finance minister predicted that the country will reach self-sufficiency in petrochemical sector by the end of this year and will no longer need to import petrochemicals.

Five million tons of steel will be produced by domestic steel mills by the end of 1373 (ending March 1995), 1.2 million tons of which would be exported, the minister said.

The average growth of Gross National Product (GNP) in the course of the first development plan stood at seven percent, he said.

The finance minister said that during the first five-year plan a total of dlrs 107 billion were invested in different economic areas, adding that oil revenues should be diverted towards investment so as to boost the country's economy.

Currency Market Quiet Despite Cabinet Decision

LD0505115294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] The foreign currency market was almost stagnant today and prices decreased compared to yesterday. The changes in the foreign currency market follow yesterday's decisions by the committee for regulating the foreign currency market. The committee announced that the state banking system will supply the foreign currency required by some importers at 50 rials less than current market prices.

The cabinet also decided in a session last night that, taking into account the decisions of the committee for regulating foreign currency, dealings with the foreign currency open market by any government establishment or establishments affiliated to the government in order to secure their required foreign currency will be illegal and any negligence by the banks during the currency allocation procedures will be deemed as collaboration with economic saboteurs.

Here is our correspondent with a report on the situation in the foreign currency market today:

[Unidentified correspondent] After the decision by the committee for regulating the foreign currency market to ban the purchase of dollars by government companies as well offering foreign currency to companies at prices lower than those on the open market, currency prices on the Tehran currency market fell by 100 to 150 rials per dollar last night. Today as well, prices are reduced by the same amount compared with yesterday's prices.

Right now I am at the Tehran foreign currency market. After last night's cabinet decision, currency dealings at the Tehran foreign currency market have almost stopped since this morning but at the new prices currency dealers are only buying and show no inclination to sell.

At the same time on the Tehran open foreign currency market currency dealings are stagnant and the market is quiet. At the moment each dollar is priced at 263 tumans which shows a decrease of 14 to 17 tumans compared with yesterday.

Tax-Free Foreign Banking Permitted on Qeshm Island

LD0505122694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Banking and monetary operations by foreign banks are permitted in the Qeshm free trade zone. Such banks are permitted to set up branches on Qeshm Island.

Mr. Bushehri, head of the Qeshm free trade zone organization, speaking about investment facilities envisioned for Qeshm island said in an exclusive interview with our correspondent: Licenses to set up and run businesses in any economic field will be issued in the shortest possible time and any economic activity in the area will be exempt from tax for 15 years.

He also said that after completion of the pontoon bridge project between Qeshm Island and Bandar Abbas, the trucking of goods in both directions will be carried out from next summer. The project is being implemented at a cost of two billion rials through mutual investment by the Azadegan cement factory, the Isar contract company, and the private sector.

On the export of goods from the island, the head of the Qeshm free trade zone organization said: The first consignment of this island's industrial products were exported today. He added that work on constructing the first export-oriented Azadegan cement factory in the area has started. The first stage of the factory's operations will comprise the milling and packaging of cement.

With regard to fertilizer production in the area, a letter of understanding has been signed between the Islamic Republic of Iran and India, according to which a joint fertilizer company will be set up.

Pakistan

Bhutto Pledges Protection From 'Politics of Terrorism'

BK0505152394 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 5 May 94

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has assured that the government will provide all protection to the people against politics of terrorism. She was talking to newsmen in Karachi today after attending the award distribution ceremony of Shahid Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology. The prime minister made it clear that the politics of terrorism would not be acceptable as it is extremely harmful for the overall progress of the nation. She said her government has embarked upon a massive development scheme for Karachi and would not allow a handful people to jeopardize the development activities by indulging in unlawful politics. She said the government has initiated schemes in transport, water sector, and other civic amenities for Karachi. Foreign investment has also been attracted to carry out these schemes, she added. Ms. Benazir Bhutto reminded that those who have created a law and order situation in Karachi are not the friends of the nation. She said political issues should be resolved through negotiation and peaceful means.

While addressing the certificate distribution of Shahid Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology in Karachi today, the prime minister, Mr. Benazir Bhutto, called upon the private sector and the philanthropists to come forward for the development of the country. [passage omitted]

Bhutto Discusses Government Economic Policy

BK0605051094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 May 94

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto has said that a strong and stable economic development, self-reliance in energy, and population control are the three characteristics of the present government's economic policy for national development. Addressing a Karachi Stock Exchange award ceremony for top companies last night, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said that on these three pillars depend the future progress and prosperity of Pakistan, and her government is moving to achieve these objectives. We have already announced an energy development program, which is expected to attract 700 billion rupees as investment over the next five years. Work has started on the Ghazi-Barotha project and difficulties facing the Hab power project have been removed. Power production in Pakistan will increase by 40 percent as a result of the two projects. The government has devised a program for setting up a 300-mw nuclear power plant with Chinese assistance and efforts are underway to remove the difficulties in the way of acquiring a 900-mw nuclear power plant from France.

The prime minister said the government has taken several steps to stabilize the country's economic infrastructure. Financial discipline has been introduced. Taxes on agriculture have been levied and bank borrowings, which stood at 62 billion rupees last year, have been brought down to 10 billion rupees. The State Bank has been made autonomous to free it from political pressures. Foreign exchange reserves have gone up to $1.8 billion.

Referring to the policy of privatization, she said the government would like to encourage it, but ensuring that public units are sold to the right persons at the right price. Ms. Benazir Bhutto said that her government is not afraid of taking unpopular decisions which are in the interests of the nation and long-term development. She said that she believed a long-term solution of our problems would ensure the prosperity of the nation. [passage omitted]

Paper Criticizes U.S. Official on Kashmir Remarks

BK0605141094 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 4 May 94 P 10

[Editorial: "Kashmir Issue—American Politicians' Tilt Toward India"]

[Text] Lee Hamilton, U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee chairman, has said that the UN Resolution on holding plebiscite in Kashmir has become obsolete and is a part of history now. At present,

the chances for its implementation are remote, and one cannot even think about it. A practical solution to the Kashmir dispute would be to recognize the Line of Control as the international border. Addressing a seminar at the Asia Society on Indo-U.S. ties and ways to improve them, Lee Hamilton, who is regarded as an influential and powerful personality in Washington, made the above statement. Although the latest salvo fired by Lee Hamilton is totally against and in contrast to the American government's stance on Kashmir, it is not difficult to assess the policies of the most powerful group of American legislators, which they want to adopt in the subcontinent in future. The Indian lobby has been exerting pressure on this group for a long time. Lee Hamilton's statement on the plebiscite in Kashmir endorses Indian policy. In politics, the so-called elections, that made the late Shaykh Abdullah the puppet chief minister of the occupied valley, are described as a plebiscite. First, these elections were not held under the supervision of the United Nations but under the Indian Government. Secondly, Shaykh Abdullah also realized his follies later for which he had to undergo an imprisonment of 14 years. Lee Hamilton's point of view that the United Nations adopted the resolution on Kashmir at a time when India itself took the issue to the Security Council and pleaded for intervention does not hold good here. At that time also, the freedom fighters were continuing their struggle for independence, and there is no change in the situation now even after almost 50 years. Despite the stepped up Indian atrocities, the Kashmir freedom fighters are continuing their movement. There is no change in India's inclination, either. Therefore, terming those resolutions obsolete now is totally outrageous.

In South Africa, the minority whites ruled the local black population for three and half years [sentence as published]. In spite of that, the nations of the world did not accept it as a rightful government. As a result, not only the racist policies came to an end, but the African National Congress led by Nelson Mandela has also won a clear majority in the recently held free and fair elections there. If this principle of rejecting UN resolutions as obsolete is accepted, every aggressor country will try to keep the UN Resolutions under suspension until they become obsolete and become a thing of the past.

As far as the matter of recognizing the Line of Control as a permanent border is concerned, if the people of Kashmir were willing to endorse it, what was the need for them to continue the freedom struggle for such a long time, endure the Indian atrocities, and sacrifice their lives and property as well as dignity and honor? They did not tolerate the injustice for 45 years to let India occupy Kashmir after reckoning the existing Line of Control as the international border.

The pleas made in favor of the laws of jungle by the distinguished politicians and scholars of the greatest human rights champion, the United States, in this era of liberty may only mean that wherever they want, they impose their ideology for personal gains. If the United States has decided not to grant the right of self-determination to the Kashmiri people, it should not resort to lousy arguments and should overtly state that India is right and all other countries are liars.

The authorities and the politicians in the United States have made India the regional don of South Asia and are bent upon denying the right of self-determination to the Kashmiris and making all the countries of the region, including Pakistan, the scion states of India. Therefore, this matter warrants a moment of thought from our government, politicians, and Kashmiri leaders. It is not only imperative on their part to intensify their campaign at global level, but the government also should make its lobby strong and effective in the United States.